SHERLOCK BONES
6
STORY BY
YUMA ANDO
ART BY
YUKI SATO

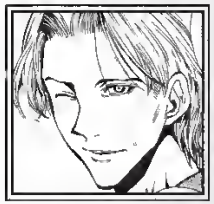
Sherlock Bones 6

Miki & Sherdog & Takeru

Story: Yuma Ando Art: Yuki Sato

Kento Munakata

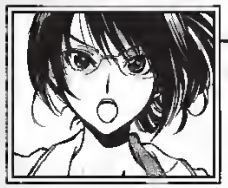
A career detective at the London Police Department the same age as Takeru. An elite freshly back from New York, he boasts of his experience whenever he gets the chance.



Muneo Tsuzuki

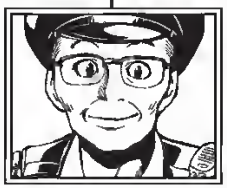
A popular newscaster, famous for charming older women. He killed his wife in a fight about an affair he was having, and in a burst of inspiration, he plotted to disguise the murder and get away with the perfect crime. He is also a wine enthusiast.

Members of the Wajima Family



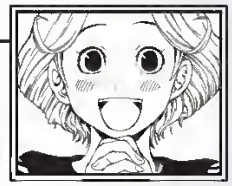
Airin Wajima

Takeru's sister, an inspector in the Violent Crimes Division, and a rather sexy woman. Sherdog calls her Irene.



Kōsuke Wajima

Takeru's father. A sergeant in the police force.



Satoko Wajima

Takeru's mother. She really hates it when Sherdog sits in her favorite rocking chair

THE STORY SO FAR

The puppy Sherdog—reincarnation of Sherlock Holmes—and his owner Takeru Wajima team up to solve tough cases!! Soon after graduating police academy and becoming a police officer, Takeru is faced with his very first case. The popular anchorman Muneo Tsuzuki has killed his wife and is trying to play it off as someone else's murder!

STORY

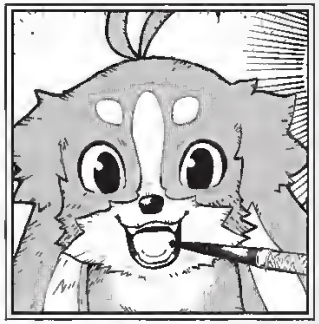
CHARACTERS

Takeru Wajima

A nineteen-year-old rookie police officer. He is Sherdog's owner and the one person who can understand him. He realized he wanted to be a police officer while solving difficult cases with Sherdog. He has a crush on his childhood friend Miki.

Sherdog

The mixed-breed puppy that Takeru adopted. His true identity is that of the world-famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. When he has the Wajima family's heirloom pipe in his mouth, he can speak to Takeru. He solves crimes with Takeru, learning about the modern world in the process.

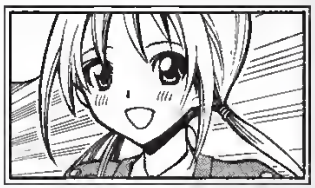


Miki Arisaka

Takeru's friend since childhood, and currently a freshman in college. An aspiring journalist, she works part-time at a newspaper company.

Miki Arisaka

Takeru and Miki's classmate from high school. Her reputation was once saved by Takeru. She became a police officer, possibly to be with Takeru.



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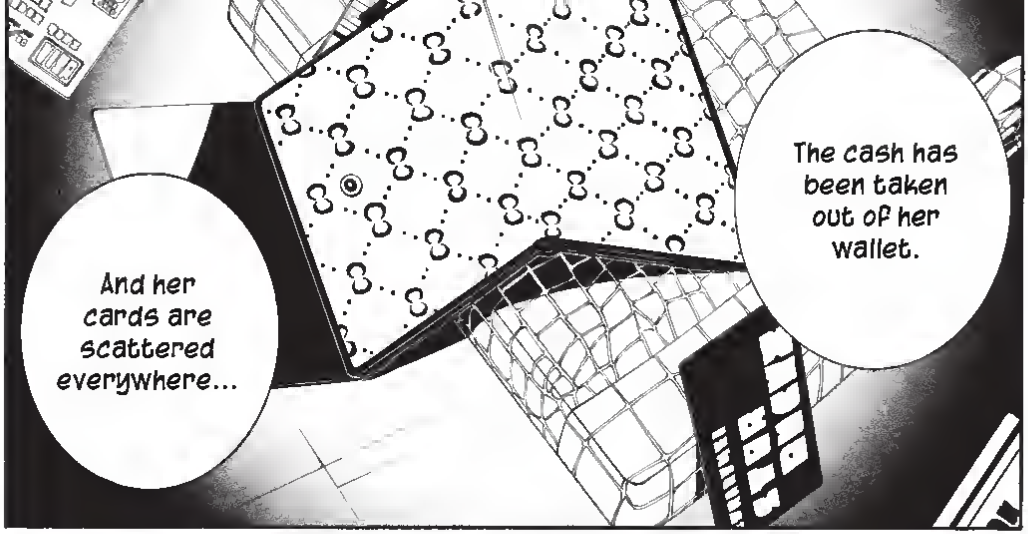
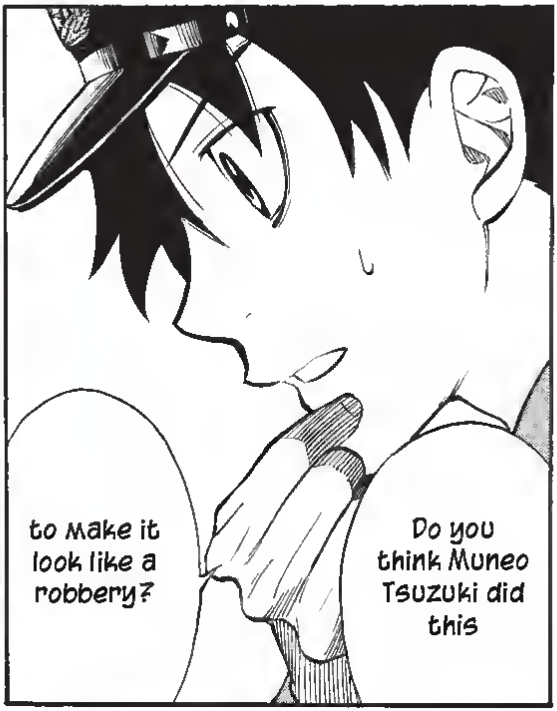
Yes... there's been a murder.
I'll stay here to question the first witnesses
and preserve the crime scene.

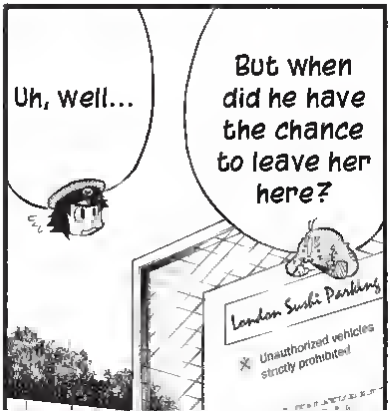
So, Watson, what do you notice?
Well...

Quite so. Let's find out what we can before the precinct detective gets here.
That should do it.
Good idea. They probably won't let a rookie like me help with the investigation.


The cash has been taken out of her wallet.
And her cards are scattered everywhere...

Well done, Watson!
SMIRK


Do you think Muneo Tsuzuki did this
to make it look like a robbery?

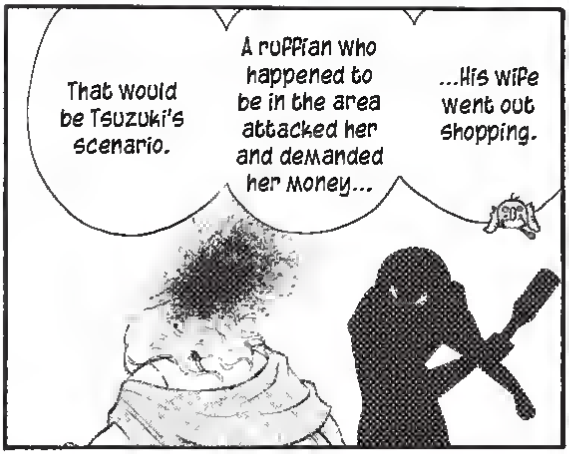

Uh, well...
But when did he have the chance to leave her here?
London Sushi Parking
Unauthorized vehicles strictly prohibited

Then that explains everything!
is related to this incident...
If Tsuzuki's suspicious behavior
Work just keeps piling and piling
So why would he chain the door?

I think we can get an idea if we ask the restaurant staff who found her!
Quite so!
CAM
Excuse me!
What are your shop's hours? How long were people here yesterday?
Well, yesterday was our regular day off—no one was here.
Then, at four this morning,
I came to get the car, so I could take it to the fish market for supplies.
And that's when I found Tsuzuki-san's wife...
!!
Tsu... Tsuzuki-san was a customer here?
Yes.
He's been a regular ever since he featured our restaurant on his program.

Could he also have figured that if he left the body here,
no one would find it until now?

...
I see... He interviewed them— that's how he knew.
Arf.
He knew they would be coming at four for the car.
Grrr.


That would be Tsuzuki's scenario.
A ruffian who happened to be in the area attacked her and demanded her money...
...His wife went out shopping.
BAM

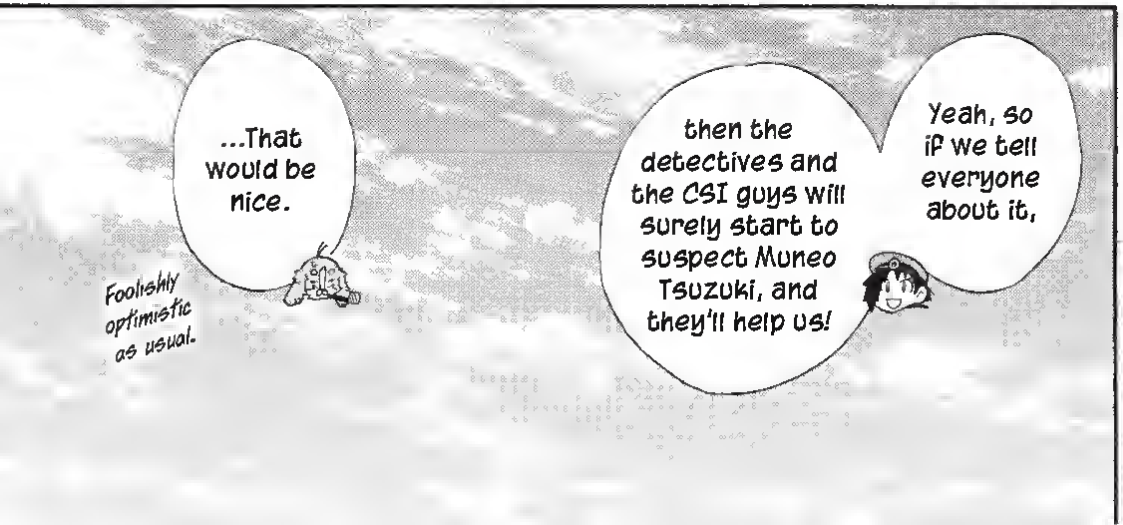
However,
that is, in fact, illogical.

Does anyone come by here during the day? No pedestrians or anything?
We don't see many people, no.
On our days off, I don't think anyone passes by, except for some people who live in the neighborhood.

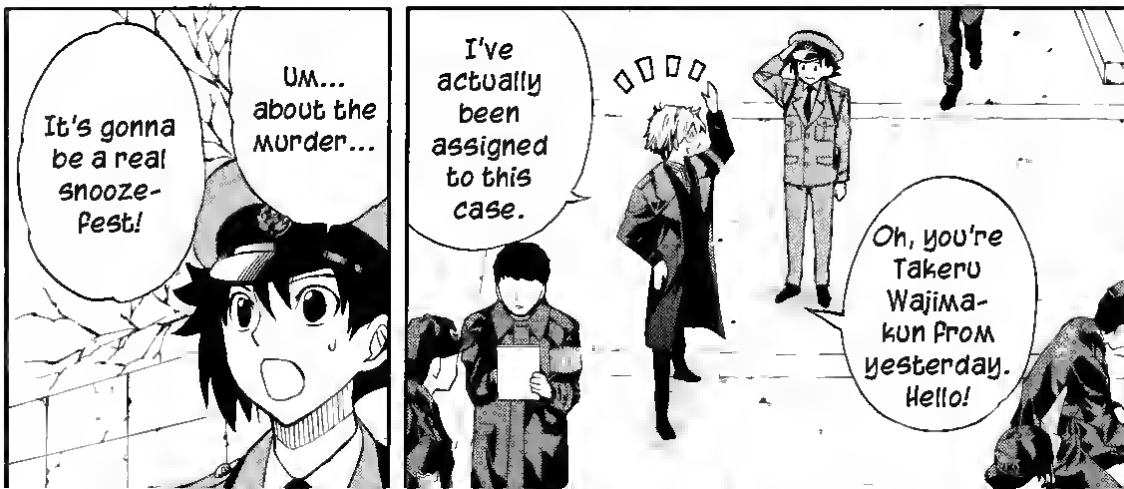
You see...
GRRR
That's right!

But we can only come to this conclusion
because we know of Tsuzuki's unusual behavior leading up to this point.

Huh?
Oh! UM, no...it's nothing.
FSH


Yeah, so if we tell everyone about it,
then the detectives and the CSI guys will surely start to suspect Muneo Tsuzuki, and they'll help us!
...That would be nice.
Foolishly optimistic as usual.

YAAAWN.
ふわぁー
Thanks for your hard work, Munakata-san!!
KEEP OUT London Police KEE
London Police KEE
Londo


Um... about the murder...
It's gonna be a real snooze-fest!
I've actually been assigned to this case.
Oh, you're Takeru Wajima-kun from yesterday. Hello!

I learned advanced investigation techniques and deductive reasoning in New York City.
But I won't need any of it for this.
...!!
Pretty dull, wouldn't you say?
A mugging.
The only thing to do is to canvas the neighborhood,
ask about other robberies in the area, and make a list of previous offenders.
I'M more interested...
ZZZIP
ニャーー
In any case,
ひぃっ
YOINK
Oh, I don't know about that.
I think there might be more to this case than meets the eye.

!!
in this!
ひょい
YOINK
What...? It's okay?
We're not sticklers for the rules in New York.
Oh, that's okay.
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
Sure. He's well-groomed, and he's so quiet he might as well be a stuffed toy.
...
I...I'm sorry! That's my dog...
I can't leave him at home... so, uh...
オロオロ
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
ポイッ
TOSS
!!
I'll talk to your supervisor for you.
What...? But I have my shift at the local kōban...
That's okay—come with me!
ひょい
YOINK
ER... UH, WOULD YOU PLEASE
ひょい
YOINK
ひょい
YOINK
I know! Would you like to come with me
to question the victim's family?

And you can call me Munakata-kun.
Okay? Takeru-kun?
N-now, just a...
Making you do all the annoying grunt work.
THUD
Since you're my age, I won't have any problems
Yeah, but...
Now you can participate in the investigation, despite being only a rookie.
This is exactly what we need... Watson...
A... ARF!
...
Or our sly criminal may get off scot-free.
We're going to need to be on the alert.
Listen. He appears to be underestimating this case.
Right!

Aaahhh, what a good night's sleep!
I haven't woken up so refreshed in a long time!

I was right to get rid of her.
MZZZZOZZ
The sow's snoring was hell.

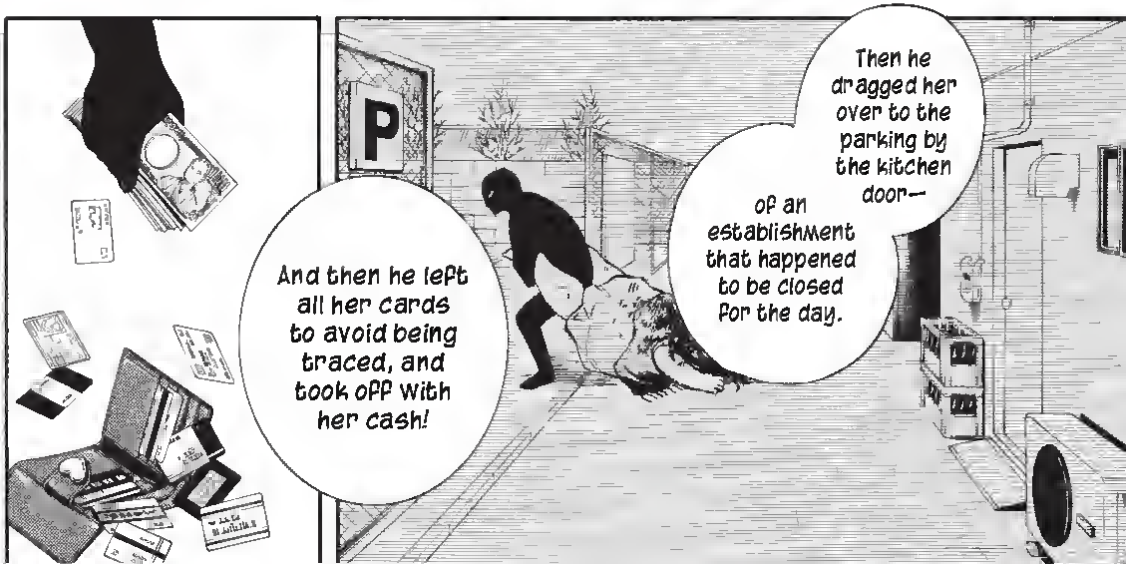
Oh.
BRRRING
The drugs must really be working.
コキ
KRIK
コキ
KRIK
Glad the Mother pig isn't as bad.
Still, she sleeps like a baby.

What? The police?
Tsuzuki speaking.
CHAK
Is it time for them to make their appearance?
Now that you mention it, she never did come back last night.
My mother-in-law is visiting, so we were drinking wine together, and...what?
YES! YES YES YES YES!
What?! M-Murdered?!
Wh-what are you saying?

M-Mother, stay strong... Nnh!
Waaaaaahhh! Miwa!! Miwaaaaaa!!
NOOOOOOOO!
You have my deepest condo-lences.
All right then, what time did your wife leave the house yesterday?
Yes, of course! Anything I can do to help!
Before we get to that, We would like to ask you a few questions.
!
GLANCE
WH...WHO... SNIFFLE... DID THIS TO HER...?
S-SO...
HIC

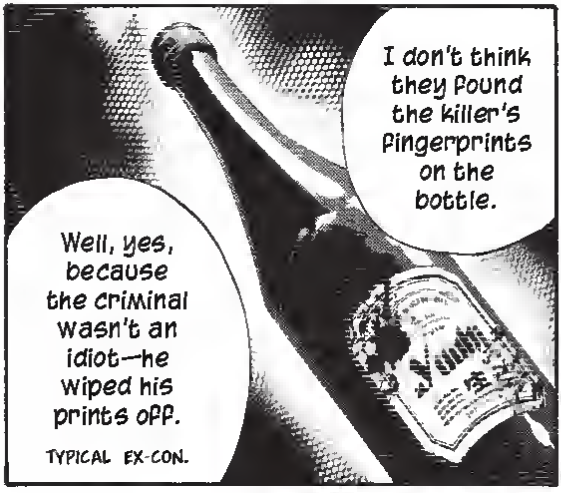
I see. That's easy enough to prove—there's a witness and everything.
After that your wife likely...
She was here until ten cleaning up, and my wife must have left after that.
Yes. The housekeeper came in the morning to make breakfast.
Let me see...I think she was gone by eleven o'clock...
From your home to a shopping district.
I went online and looked up the shortest route
H-how do you know that?
Hm?
...went to the shopping district outside the train station.
Elementary.
Yes.
I-I see. And that's where she was attacked by a mugger...?
It's a bit deserted, but she probably didn't think she needed to be careful in broad daylight.
THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN NEW YORK
And one shortcut ran right through the scene of the murder.

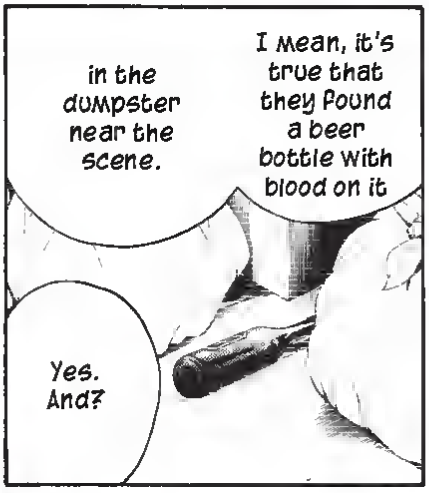
The mugger picked up an empty beer bottle outside of the sushi restaurant.
And, without warning, he hit your wife on the back of the head.
Again and again.
He was careful to make sure she couldn't fight back.
And he killed her.

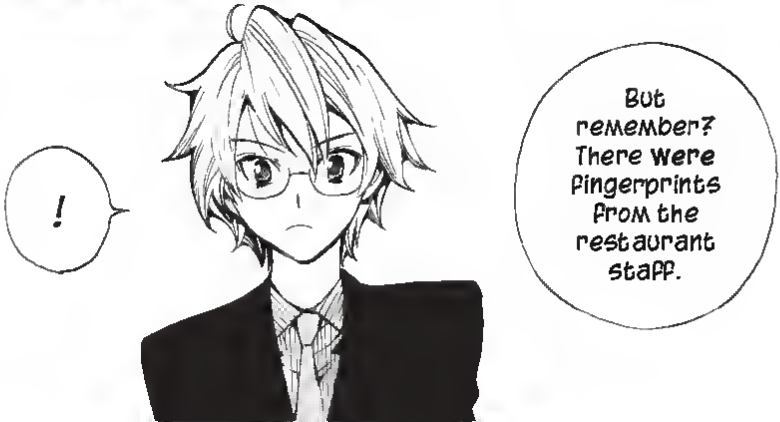

P
Then he dragged her over to the parking by the kitchen door—
of an establishment that happened to be closed for the day.
And then he left all her cards to avoid being traced, and took off with her cash!

It's only common crime investigation sense.
No, no, no. You are definitely not trying very hard, "Mr. Elite."
How could he!
In...incredible.
I'M incredible!! This is working out even better than I'd planned!!
NOD
!
Watson!
ARF!
Say something.
What do I do, Sherdog? If this keeps up...
W-w-wait a second, Munakata-kun!!
...That being the case, we will look into...

TWITCH
OH
...What?
this case is that simple!
I don't think


I don't think they found the killer's fingerprints on the bottle.
Well, yes, because the criminal wasn't an idiot—he wiped his prints off.
TYPICAL EX-CON.


I mean, it's true that they found a beer bottle with blood on it in the dumpster near the scene.
Yes. And?


!
But remember? There were fingerprints from the restaurant staff.

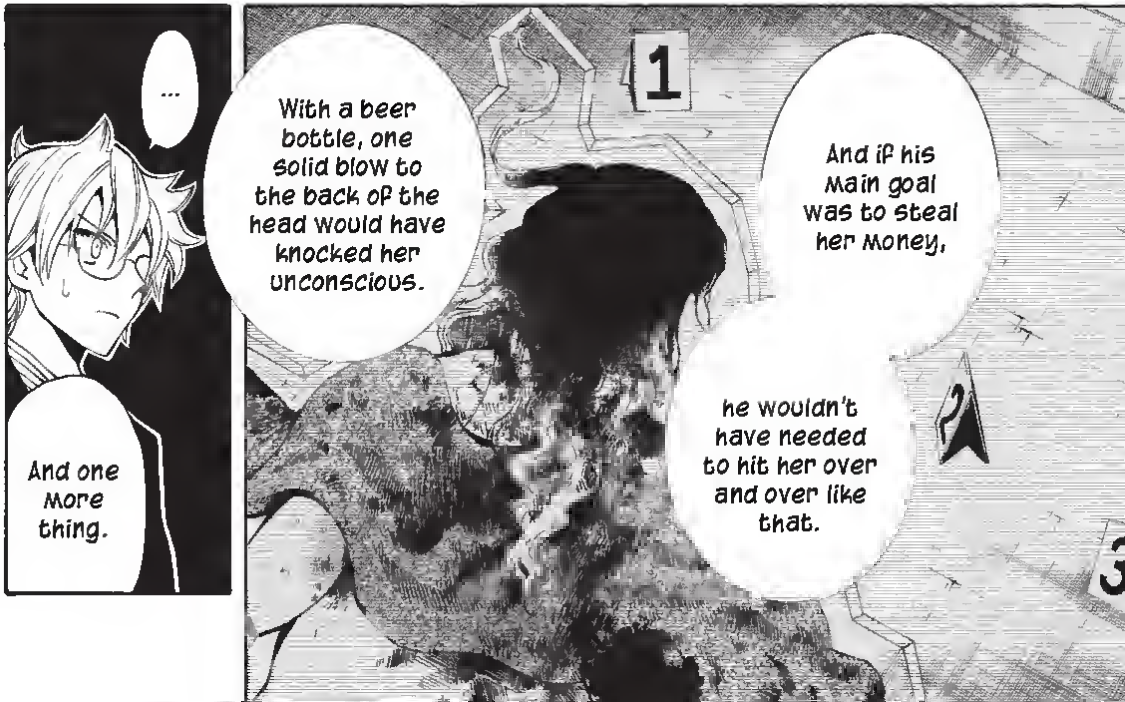
He must have grabbed the bottle with gloves on,
so that there wouldn't be any prints on it to begin with?
Wouldn't that mean that the killer didn't wipe the prints off afterward?

GULP...
...
MRK!

There was no wind yesterday, and it got up to almost 10°C*. Would you be wearing gloves?
In the middle of the day?
...
*50°F

ALL SET!!
Y-yes, that's true, but...
It's winter. Maybe he was already wearing gloves.
If this was just a random crime using a bottle he found on the ground,
I don't think it makes sense for him to deliberately put gloves on.

...
attack someone in broad daylight, in a residential neighborhood?
to avoid leaving fingerprints,
Would a killer who was careful enough to wear gloves,

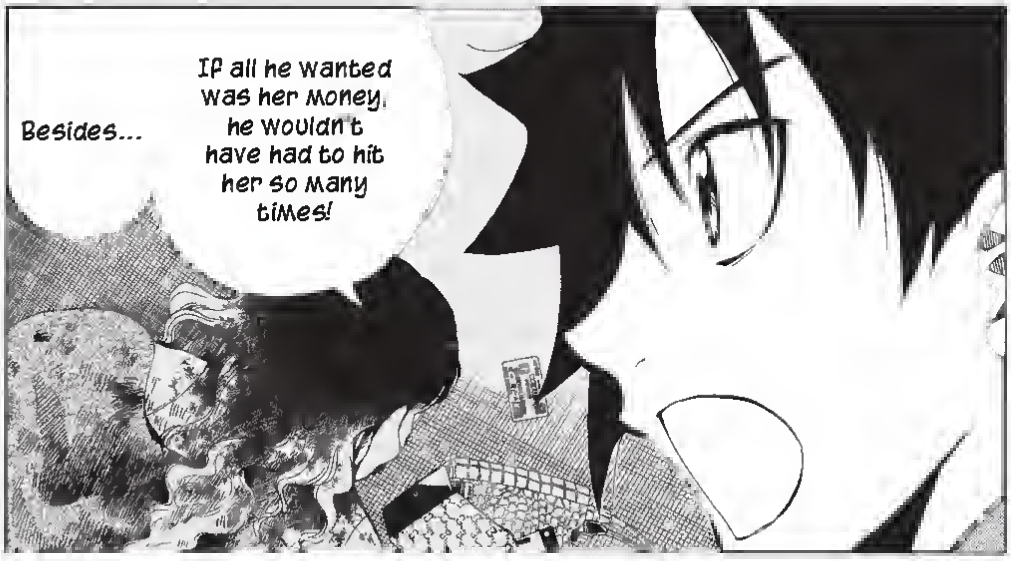

...
And one more thing.
With a beer bottle, one solid blow to the back of the head would have knocked her unconscious.
1
And if his main goal was to steal her money,
he wouldn't have needed to hit her over and over like that.
2
3

but he apparently didn't even look at the clearly very expensive jewelry she was wearing.
It makes sense that the killer would have left the cards and only taken her cash.
Isn't that a little strange for an experienced criminal?

Who is this guy?
He's obviously just a bumbling rookie!!

What's with the uniformed kid...?
He talks as if he watched me do it!!
...Something about him has bothered me ever since I met him yesterday!!
I can't be too careful around this kid!
Sherdog

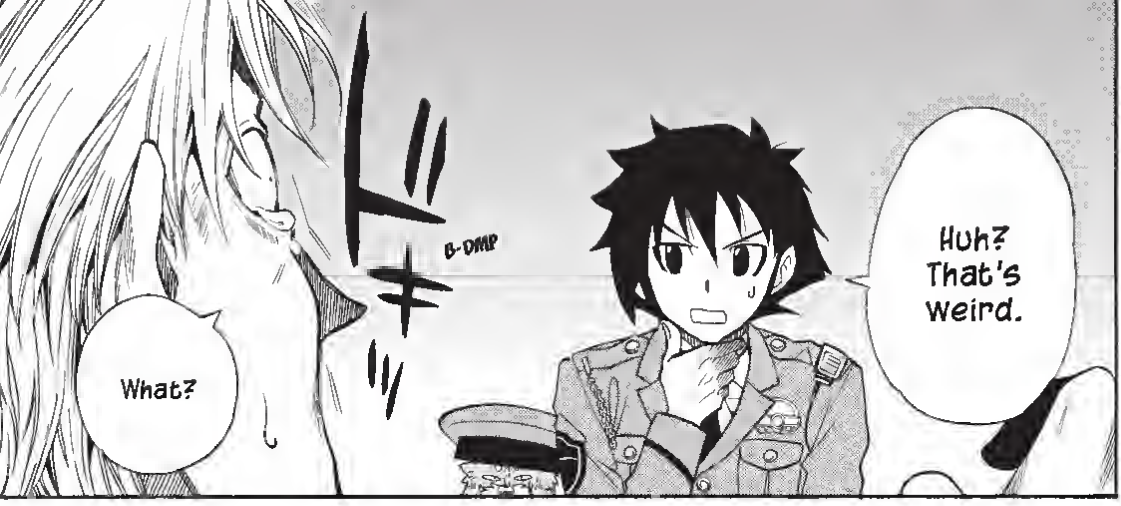
Case 8: ⚜ Requiem for a New Beginning, Part 4

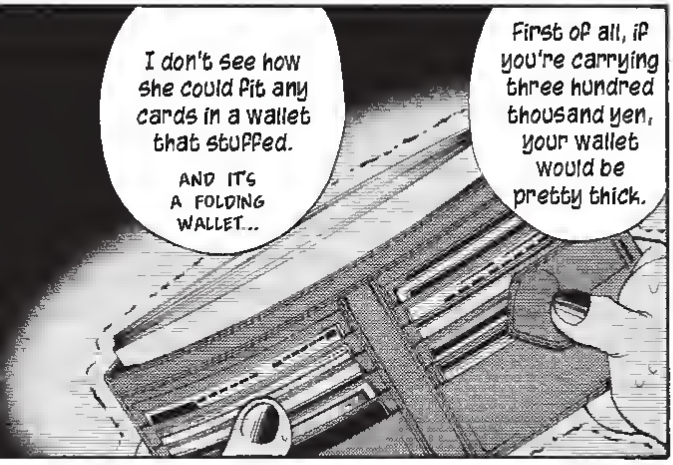


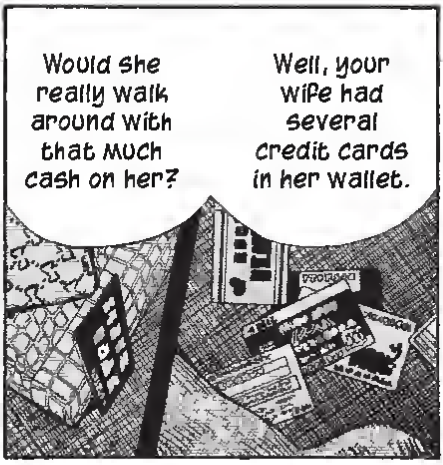
!
I can understand taking the cash and leaving the cards.
But he didn't even look at the clearly very expensive jewelry she was wearing.
Isn't that a little strange *for an experienced criminal?*

Damn, damn, damn!!
HNN...I JUST... THINK OF HOW I'LL NEVER SEE HER SMILING FACE AGAIN... THE SADNESS IS OVERWHELM-ING...
SANTE DE U
ROHTO
It's really hard to call up tears when I don't feel a shred of grief!!
Waaaaaahhh! Miwa!! Miwaaaaaa!!
A-Anchor-Man Tsu-zuki?!
WINCE
LUNGE
カバッ

WOOOEEE
It wasn't for nothing that I had so many interviews with the families of real victims!!
Damn that killer!! All for a measly two or three hundred thousand yen*!!
*About $2,000 or $3,000
Yesss! I fooled him!! Good...
...
I know how you must feel, Mr. Tsuzuki.


What?
B-DMP
Huh? That's weird.

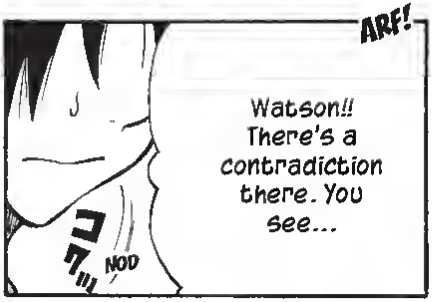

I don't see how she could fit any cards in a wallet that stuffed.
AND IT'S A FOLDING WALLET...
First of all, if you're carrying three hundred thousand yen, your wallet would be pretty thick.


Would she really walk around with that much cash on her?
Well, your wife had several credit cards in her wallet.

He attacked her because she was covered in rings and jewels, so obviously she was loaded.
The Mugger isn't going to know how much money is in her wallet.
Ugh, quit nitpicking. It's so annoying.

Anyway, she always walked around with a lot of money. I kept warning her to stop...
...Oh, uh, it might have only been about 150 or 160 thousand.
SIGH...
Now, look, Takeru-kun.

*Big Apple: New York

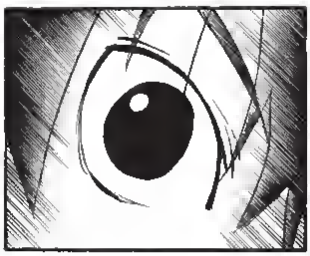


But the body had a shawl on!
Who wears a coat over a shawl? And that dress she had on was a little light to be wearing outside!
No, her coat was on the ground near her body!
She was probably carrying it, because it was the middle of the day and she was getting hot!
She probably carried a shawl around for when it was just barely too hot for a coat.
That's a good point. She did seem well-insulated.
...I mean, my wife was pleasantly plump.
She gets hot very easily... yes.
No, when you're that fa...
I'M on the case.
Well.
ギュッ
GSH

PLEASE DO EVERY-THING YOU CAN! BRING MY WIFE'S KILLER TO JUSTICE!!
SOB SOB
I'd like to canvas the neighborhood to see if we can find any witnesses.
And single out a suspect from a list of previous offenders.

...

GRRR...
What slipshod detective work. I laugh to hear he trained in America.
GN...
You've shown him all the inconsisten-cies, yet he still refuses to abandon his own theory...



ARF!
Well if you'll excuse me for now... I may need your help again.

What is this, Anchorman Tsuzuki?!
15°
ZSH
Takeru-kun?!
O-Officer, what are you...

*59°F

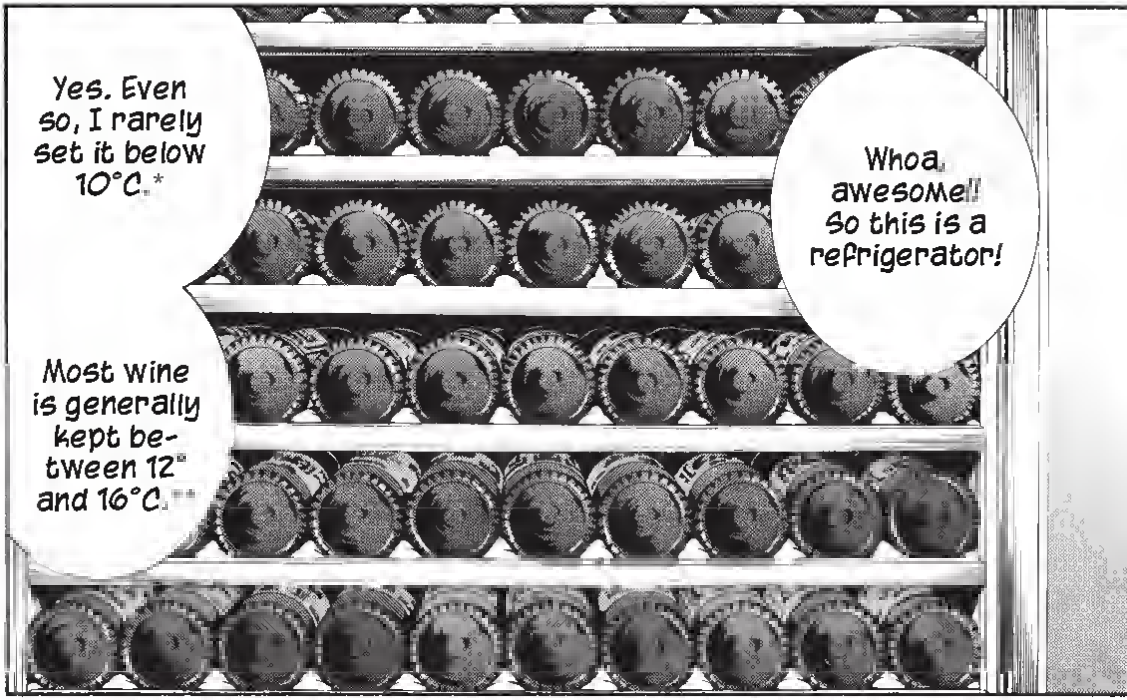
Some of that can be really expensive.
GRIN
Wine, huh?

My wife was a connoisseur, too...
SOB SOB
It's a wine cellar... That's where I keep my best wine.
Uh...o-oh.
Wow, that's impressive.

Excuse me, Takeru-kun!
It'd be terrific if I could take a look.

KACHAK
Of course—all of this wine is at least 100,000 yen* a bottle.
So you keep it locked?
It's my prized collection!!
FLIP
Oh, I don't mind at all! Be my guest!

*About $1,000

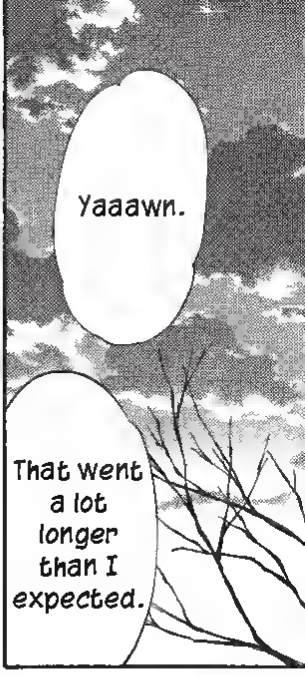


*50°F **53.6° to 60.8°F

*About $2,000

I'd have to be you to afford that!!
OH, WELL...
LOOM
I BOUGHT THAT FOR THEM.
In fact, I think almost every bottle of fine wine in this cellar was purchased with my money.
What? Really?
Er, well.
M-Mother is a very generous woman...
I tell her that I make my own money, but... Ha ha...
STAY OUT OF THIS, HAG!!
...

...
チラッ
GLANCE
Thanks to a certain someone!!


Yaaawn.
That went a lot longer than I expected.

Huh?
this is a case of a mugging.
...Munakata-kun, I don't think

I happened to visit the Tsuzuki home.
See, yesterday afternoon,

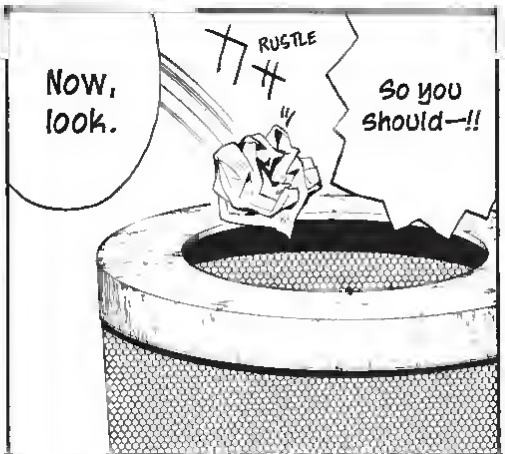
What? You heard about it?
Oh, yes, I know.

He gave me a report.
Yes. Your supervisor, what was it? Something Momohara? The head patrol officer with muscles for brains?
原山田(はらやまだ)!
百男(ももお)で
あります!!
It's Momo'o Harayamada, sir!!

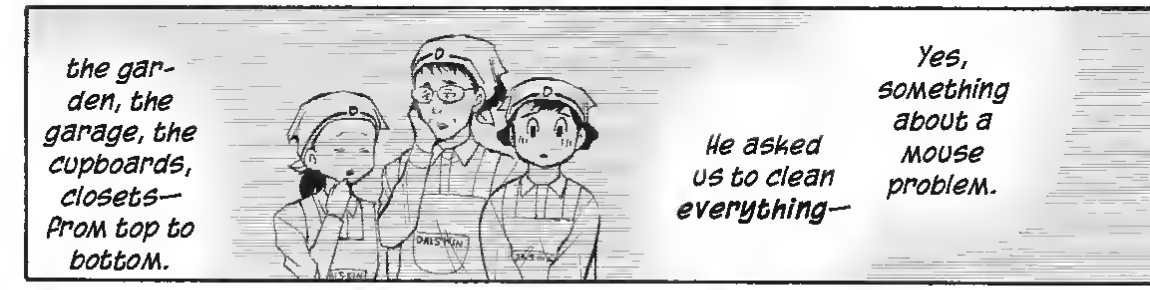
!!
PFFFT
Something about you having to watch the house so the cleaning ladies could go home?
...

Something about him not saying "I'm home,"
Yeah, more or less.
and chaining his door even though his wife wasn't home yet. That stuff, right?
So why would he chain the door?
KACHAK
There was a lot of weird stuff going on that day!
Did he tell you that?!

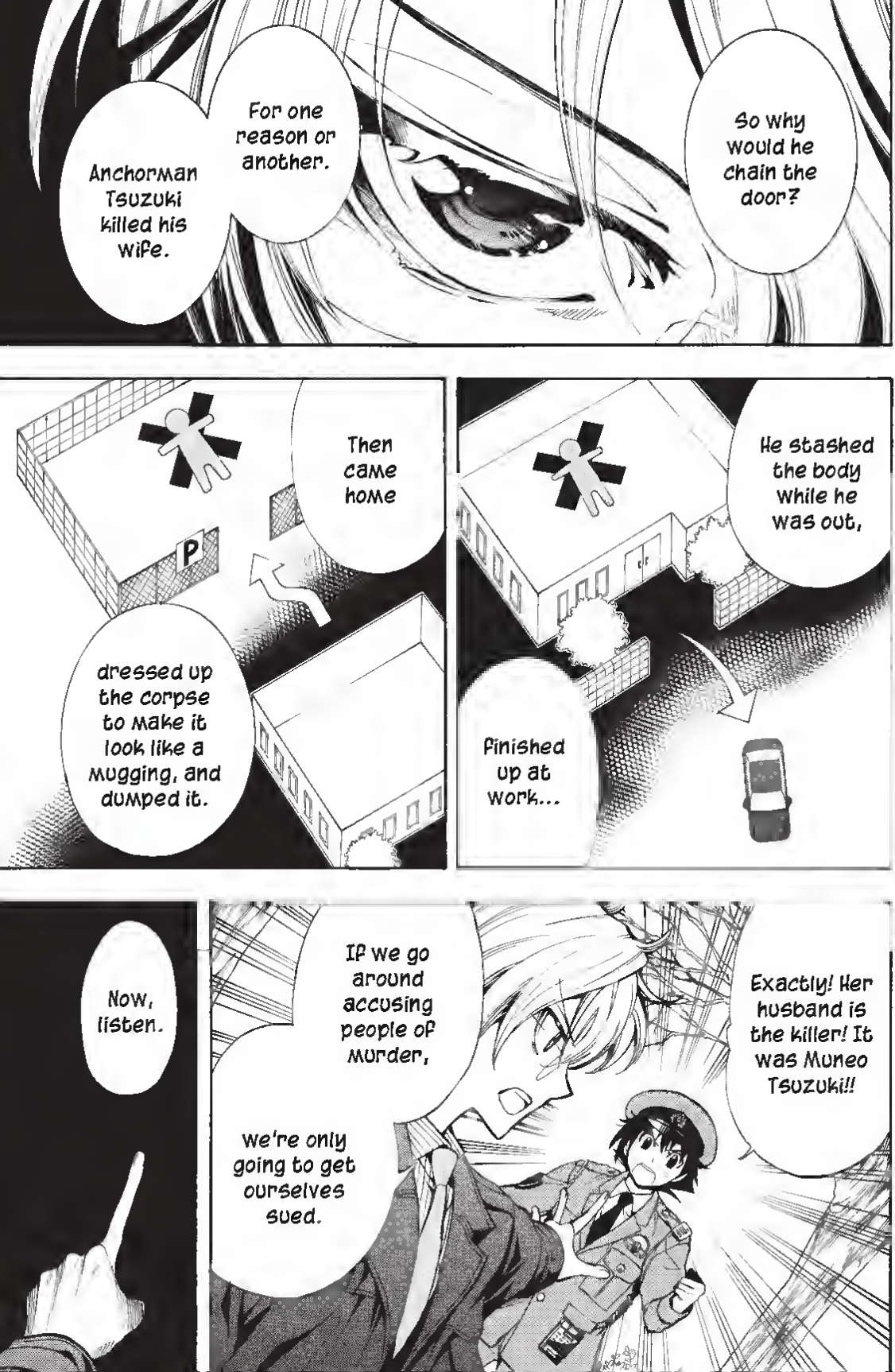
I wish you would give me the credit I deserve.
Huh...?


Now, look.
RUSTLE
So you should—!!

!
I went and questioned the cleaning ladies.
They told me...
After I heard,


the garden, the garage, the cupboards, closets— from top to bottom.
He asked us to clean everything—
Yes, something about a mouse problem.

This young detective...
as I'm sure you imagined he was.
!
In other words, he wasn't hiding a body anywhere,


So why would he chain the door?
For one reason or another.
Anchorman Tsuzuki killed his wife.
Then came home
P
dressed up the corpse to make it look like a mugging, and dumped it.
He stashed the body while he was out,
Finished up at work...
Now, listen.
If we go around accusing people of murder,
we're only going to get ourselves sued.
Exactly! Her husband is the killer! It was Muneo Tsuzuki!!

...
Based on the drop in her body temperature,
we believe that the body was left in the cold outdoors—just like the parking lot where she was discovered.
Miwa Tsuzuki's time of death
has been narrowed down to within fifteen minutes of 10 a.m.
The medical examiner looked at the contents of her stomach,
and was able to get an accurate estimate based on how much had been digested after the housekeeper served breakfast.

Even if her husband Mr. Tsuzuki did kill her,
he would have had to leave the house 30-40 minutes after the crime
to meet his ride to work.
He didn't have time to go out and dump the body.
Furthermore, he took his own car in for repairs two weeks ago,
and it hasn't been returned yet.
So of course, if he had been our murderer,
he would have had to leave the body somewhere in the house.
The massive body that probably weighs about 80 kg*.
...
*About 176 lbs.

How could he hide something like that?
The cleaning ladies looked over every corner of the house.
In fact, if he was trying to stash a body,
he would have canceled the cleaning,
or asked them to keep it to simple, outside chores.
Or made any number of other unnatural requests.
But instead, he did the opposite,
and asked them to clean every nook and cranny.

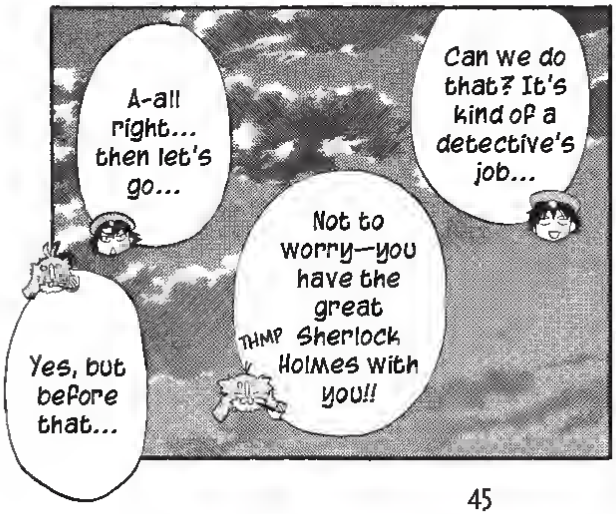
Even from a psycho-logical stand-point,
He can't possibly
be the murderer.
TMP
Do you under-stand?
Mr. High School Diploma?
...In that case,
?

What?
An elite like you easily has the authority
to interrogate the witnesses like a detective...don't you?
to ask a lowly kōban officer like me
...
SIGH...
In that case,
will you let me handle the investigation?

And in fact, if you would go so far as to say I went with you, that would actually make my day.
Okay, go ahead. I'll make the arrangements.
I'd much rather go to a sports club, or out on a date.
I can't spend all my time on this boring case. I have other things to do.
how a real detective works!
We'll show that upstart "elite"
There's nothing boring about a murder...
Yeah...
...You're on fire now, Watson.

Get him, Watson!!
Yeah!

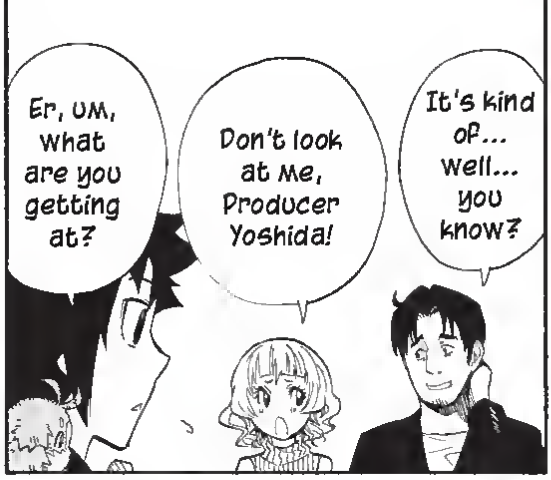
Case 8: ⚜ Requiem for a New Beginning, Part 5


A-all right... then let's go...
Can we do that? It's kind of a detective's job...
Not to worry—you have the great Sherlock Holmes with you!!
THMP
Yes, but before that...

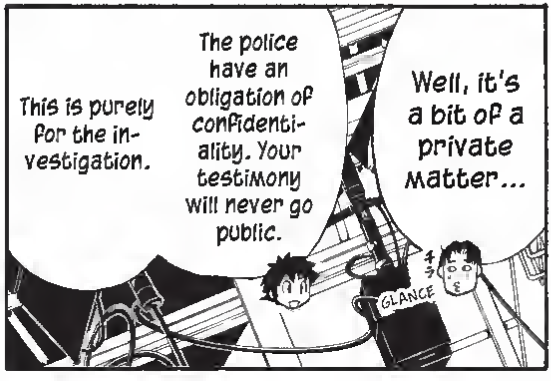
We'll start with the news staff who were working with Tsuzuki on the day of the murder.
First, we must do some interrogating!
STOP
ARF!
What?

Only authorized personnel are allowed in here.
Hey, you! Kid! Here to watch? Or are you a part-timer?
Oh, excuse me! Please, go on inside.
Patrol Officer Takeru Wajima
Excuse me... I called a little while ago. I'm Wajima, with the London PD.
Oh, come now. Once you're a detective, you'll be going everywhere in plainclothes.
フッ
ARF!
I should have worn my uniform...
See, Sherdog? I told you I looked like a little kid.
...
Me, a detective ...?
It might happen... someday...
And when that time comes, the way you're dressed now is more likely to keep people off their guard than a suit and tie.
HEE HEE HEE...

...
GASP
You must become a detective.
As soon as you possibly can.
And for that,
You must get results on this case!!
Okay!!
...

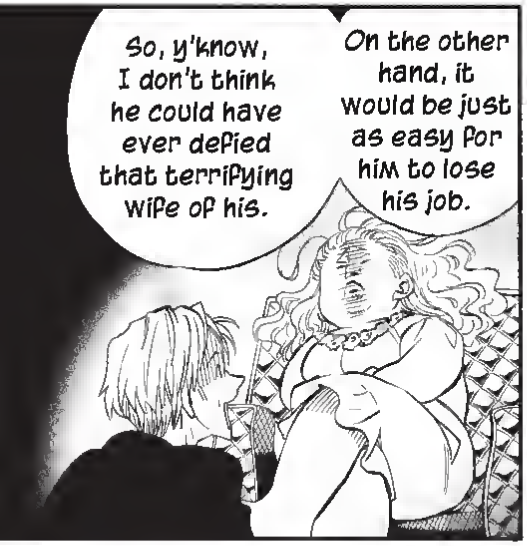

Er, um, what are you getting at?
Don't look at me, Producer Yoshida!
It's kind of... well... you know?

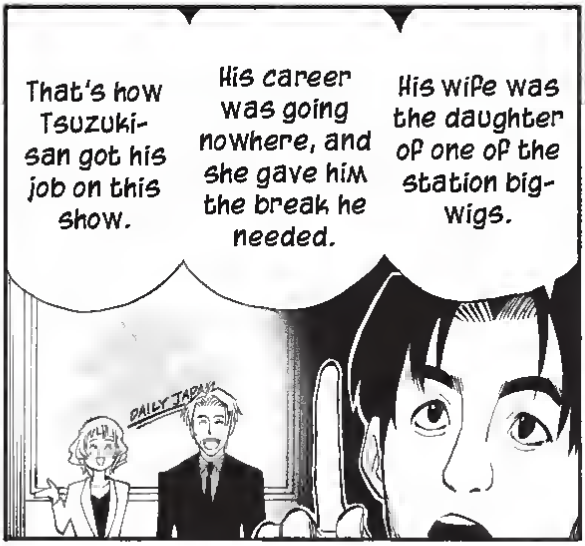
Oh, right, Tsuzuki-san.
I had no idea his wife was murdered yesterday.
I mean, yeah, it's a shock, but...

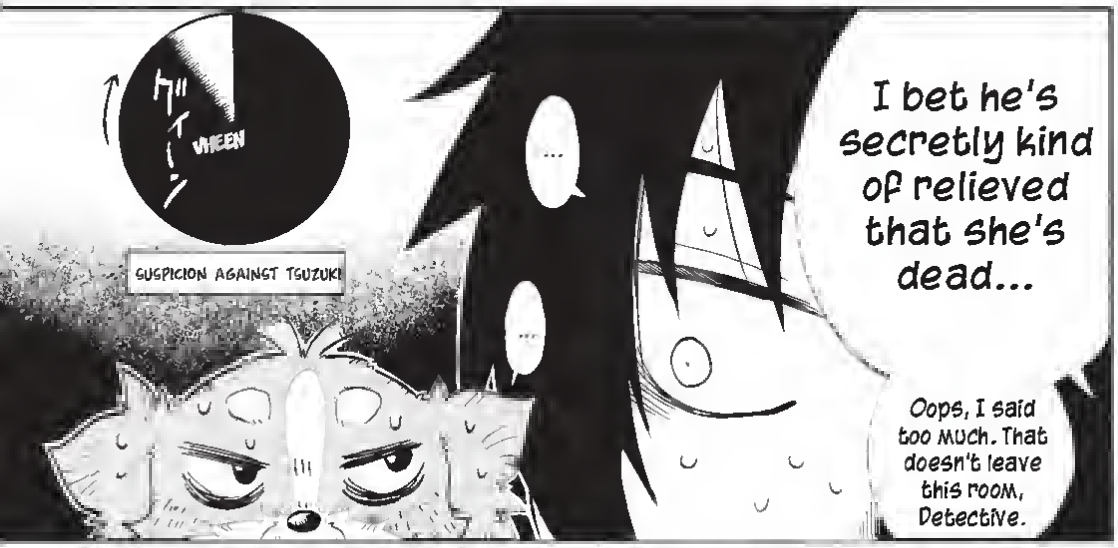

Well, it's a bit of a private matter...
The police have an obligation of confidentiality. Your testimony will never go public.
This is purely for the investigation.
GLANCE

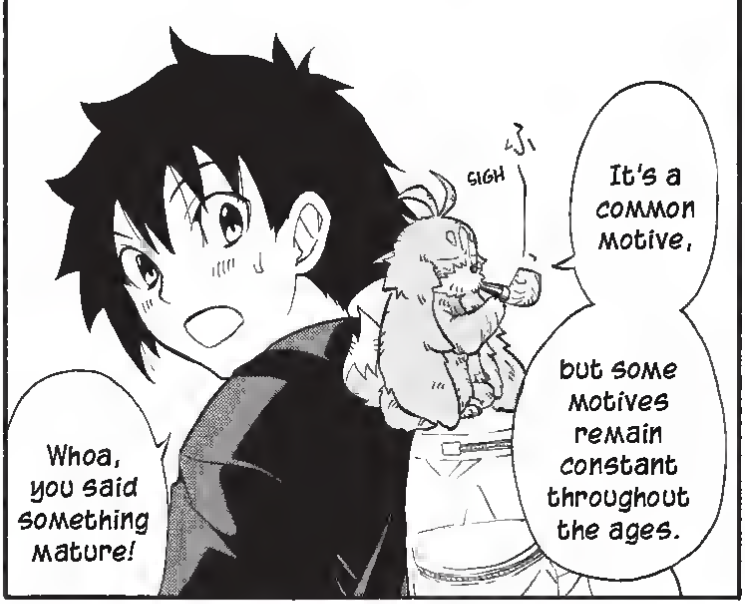
HELLO, I'M THE BUSTY ANNOUNCER!!
You bet he did! You wouldn't believe that man!
He was famous for making passes at 100% of the women he worked with!
Hmm...in that case, I'll tell you.
He has a bad habit when it comes to women... Right, Kuwabara-chan?

100
SUSPICION AGAINST TSUZUKI
HMMM.
R... right.
But everyone was afraid of his wife,
So no one made any fuss about it—if it got out, the accuser would be hung out to dry right along with him...
SO HE GOT AWAY WITH EVERYTHING.

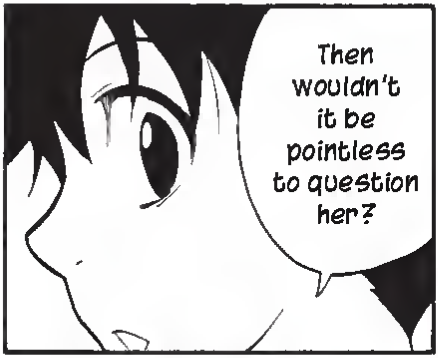

So, y'know, I don't think he could have ever defied that terrifying wife of his.
On the other hand, it would be just as easy for him to lose his job.

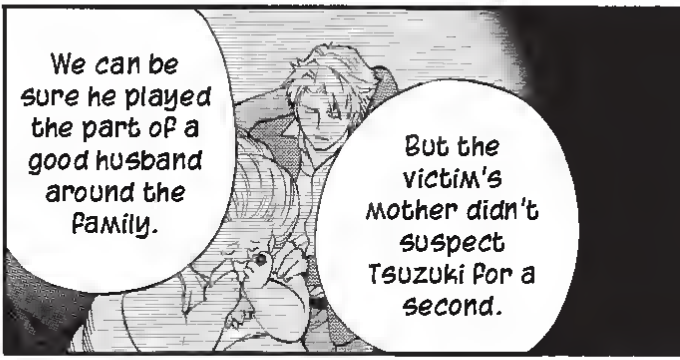

That's how Tsuzuki-san got his job on this show.
His career was going nowhere, and she gave him the break he needed.
His wife was the daughter of one of the station big-wigs.
DAILY TADAY


WHEEN
SUSPICION AGAINST TSUZUKI
...
...
I bet he's secretly kind of relieved that she's dead...
Oops, I said too much. That doesn't leave this room, Detective.


Whoa, you said something mature!
SIGH
It's a common motive,
but some motives remain constant throughout the ages.

I guess his motive is that she found out about his affairs.
Quite so.

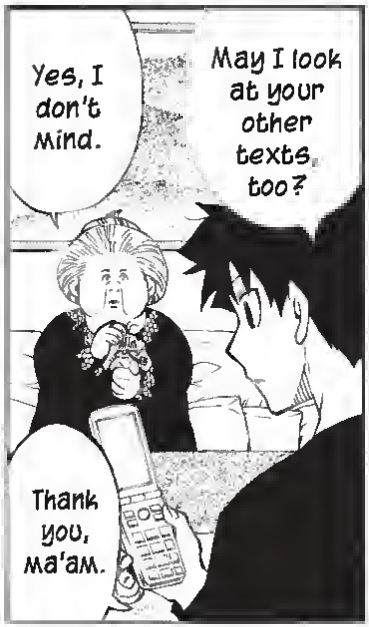

Then wouldn't it be pointless to question her?


We can be sure he played the part of a good husband around the family.
But the victim's mother didn't suspect Tsuzuki for a second.

I get it... Okay, we're here.
...Whoa, huge house!!
DUN
No, because she visited the Tsuzuki home on the day of the murder.
It's possible she may give us some valuable testimony.

I can't believe this is really happening.
They were so happy together...
...
My condolences.
...Anyway, you have such a precious doggy.
He soothes my grieving heart.
INSTANT FAVORITE
If I may ask, why did you go to Tsuzuki-san's house on the day of the incident?
Oh, well, you see.

Miwa sent me a text message.
The night before last,
So I bought a cake and went to see her.
And she didn't call.
She said she wanted to talk, and she would be coming over, but she never arrived.


Yes, I don't mind.
May I look at your other texts, too?
Thank you, ma'am.

May I see it, please?
A text mes-sage?
Yes, certainly.

...
11/20 20:31
From Miwa-chan
Title Big Discovery!
Yoohoo, Mama
I found some super delicious
BEEP
(*^0^*)/
That was so fun
Let's go out to eat again
I love you,Mommy
BEEP
Roooger Wilco
BEEP
It's the only one with no emoticons. It looks kind of serious...
From Miwa-chan
Title Dear Mom
I need to talk to you.
Can I come over tomorrow?
I'll tell you all about it then....
This last text
Now that this has happened... I'M even more concerned...
I wonder what she wanted to talk about?
...
Oh, now that you mention it, I think you're right.

Redial
Miwa-chan
02/08 10:23
Managing Director Sato
02/08 13:56
Suzuki Pro
That's when I got there.
...There it is. It was about 7:15.
Let me think... I'M sure it was after seven...
What time was it when you arrived at Tsuzuki-san's house?
Oh, that's right. I called her cell phone five minutes before I got there.
BAM
And we left the house just before seven!
We arrived around six o'clock!
ARF!
NOD
He wouldn't have had time to dispose of the body!!
So she was visiting almost immediately after we left!

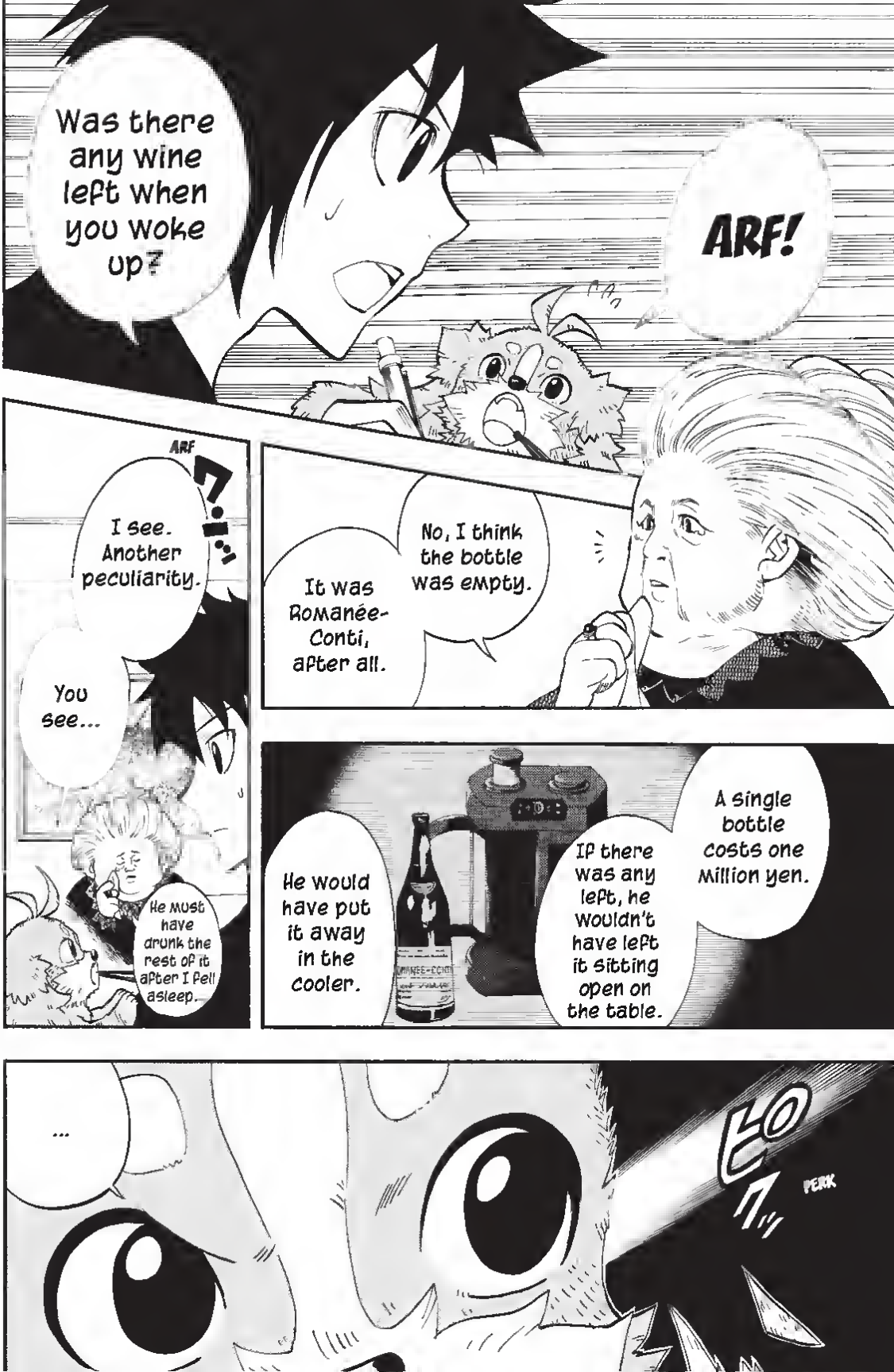
It's called Romanée-Conti.
It's the very finest of all fine wine—I gave it to them as a house-warming gift after they renovated.
...And when you arrived at the house, Miwa-san wasn't there, correct?
Yes, so I said I would wait for her...
Muneo-san had opened a good wine.
A good wine?
It's not the type of wine you would open on a less than special occasion.
But for some reason, there it was—open.
...
So, since I had chosen it for them...

TUP
TUP
TUP
I thought that I could share it with Muneo-san while I waited.
Oh?
Y-yes... actually, just when we started drinking, she said she wasn't feeling well.
You've hardly drunken any of it.
I thought it was such a waste, but...
I thought you opened this with Miwa-chan last night.
BLAH
...
It's a good little cooler. It keeps the wine for a week without a bit of oxidization...
And I put the rest of it back in the cooler.
I wanted to drink it with her, so I settled on just one glass.

...
Have a drink—you can hold your liquor.
Oh, you're not drinking? Why not?
Hmm... Well, we'll just have a little between the two of us.
And then we can share it with Miwa when she gets back.
...
Y-yes. Ch... cheers...
It's Romanée-Conti! Go on, cheers!
GULP

Let me think.
Well, I've almost never spoken with him one-on-one...
...I see.
Was there anything about Tsuzuki-san that seemed different from normal?
ARF!
I suppose I noticed that he certainly talked a lot more when it was just the two of us.
So Muneo-san would just listen and pour more wine.
And when Miwa was with us, the two of us would be very talkative.
Th-that's all right... But have I been any help to the investigation?
Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to remind you...
Oh, I remembered Miwa again...
SNIFFLE

Y-yes... I mean, it can't hurt to find out as many details as I can.
Incidentally, Ma'am, you stayed at Tsuzuki-san's house until morning?
Yes, and it's so strange...
After just one glass, I was so drowsy— as if I had taken a sleeping pill.
!!
Then I ended up there on the sofa all night.
B-DMP
Apparently the same happened to Muneo-san, too.
...
B-DMP
He said he didn't wake up until the police called.
...
B-DMP


Was there any wine left when you woke up?
ARF!
ARF
?!
I see. Another peculiarity.
You see...
He must have drunk the rest of it after I fell asleep...
It was Romanée-Conti, after all.
No, I think the bottle was empty.
He would have put it away in the cooler.
If there was any left, he wouldn't have left it sitting open on the table.
A single bottle costs one million yen.
...
EO
PERK

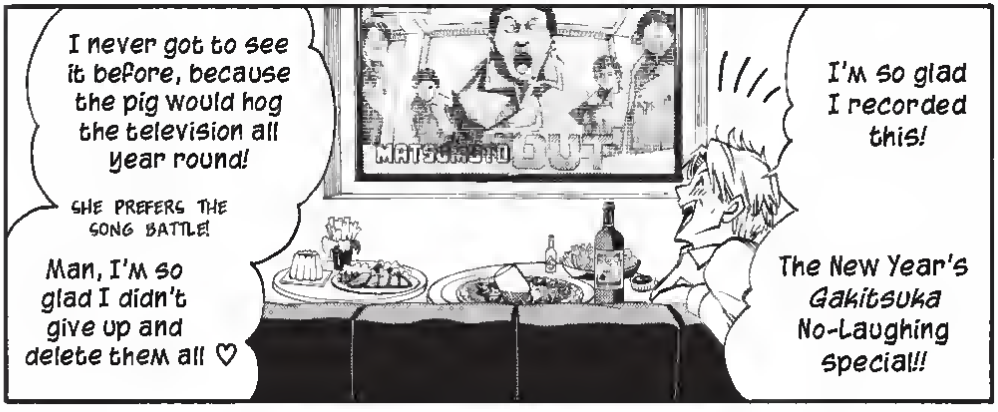
ARF!!
!!
I see you have some photos of Miwa-san in a wheelchair.

Did she have some trouble with her legs?
Oh, well, you see,
She was just a little too overweight.
So for the past two or three years, she had been using a wheelchair when her chronic hernia would flare up.
When it happened, you can see he was so chivalrous.
Muneo-san, pushing her in the wheelchair.
They were so close...
...
ARF!

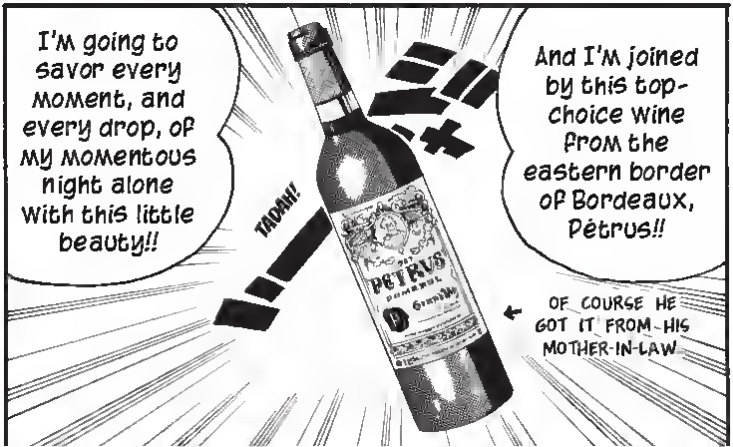
Huh?
Is that Miwa-san in this picture?
She was much thinner.
Yes, that was taken on their honeymoon... Oh, it brings back memories...
ARF!
It would seem we have found some irrefutable evidence.
...
Watson.

Let us pay one more visit...
...to Muneo Tsuzuki!!

わはははは
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
Oh, man, he's so stupid!


I never got to see it before, because the pig would hog the television all year round!
SHE PREFERS THE SONG BATTLE!
Man, I'm so glad I didn't give up and delete them all ♡
I'm so glad I recorded this!
The New Year's Gakitsuka No-Laughing Special!!

Coming!
ヒーホー
DING-DONG


I'm going to savor every moment, and every drop, of my momentous night alone with this little beauty!!
TADAH!
PETRUS
And I'm joined by this top-choice wine from the eastern border of Bordeaux, Pétrus!!
OF COURSE HE GOT IT FROM HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW

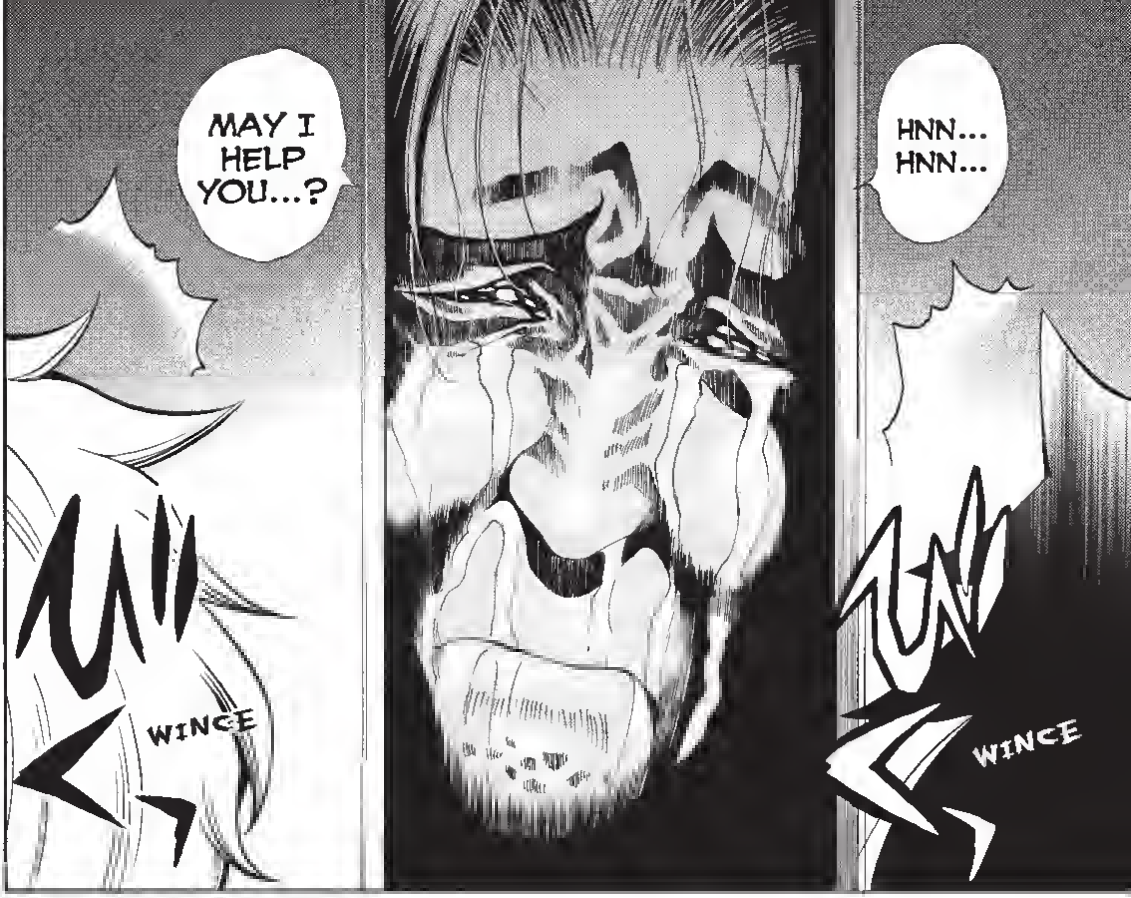
...
COM...
YAAAWN
KACHAK
Oh, you're home, Tsuzuki-san!
GOOD!
We have something to ask you.

I...I know. I need another glass!
WT
EEEP!
ZOOM
I can't let them see my one-man party!!
J...JUST A MINUTE...!
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
Oh, crap!! They're back!!
AND I ANSWERED THE INTERCOM!

Honestly... What do you think you're doing, Takeru-kun?
What do you think I'm doing?
I'm here to arrest our number one suspect—Muneo Tsuzuki.
NY MAR
...You're really set on this guy being the killer, aren't you?
Fine, I'll play along...but this is the last time.
SIGH
NEW YOR BAGE
This isn't a job
GRIN
ニカ
So I thought we could do it together.
For a lowly kōban officer like me.
For a second, I thought you might have some potential as a detective.
But I overesti-mated you.
SCRUNCH
クシャ
...
If you're so sure...

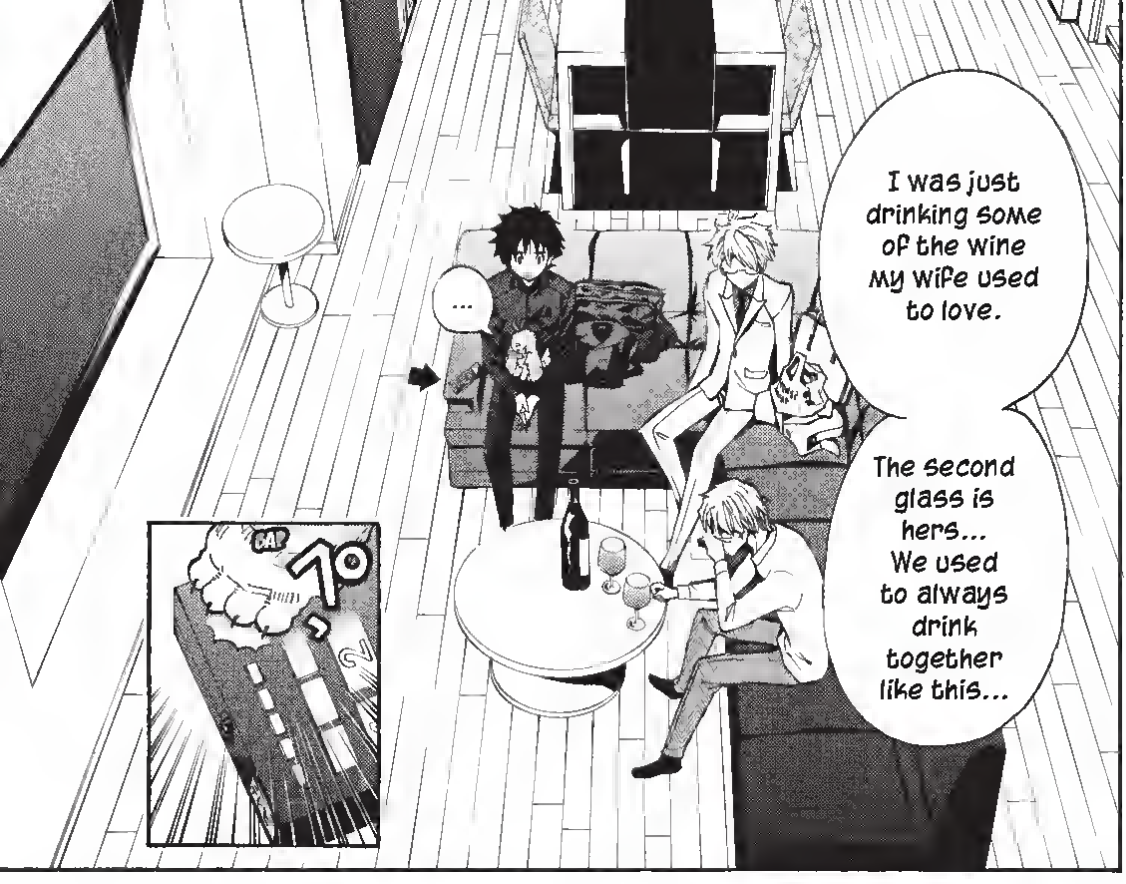
If I'M right, and he is the killer,
then you'll recom-mend me to the detective division.
You wanna make a bet?
What?
Oh, really? Okay, then...
gg...
So what if you're wrong, and you end up wasting my valuable time off?
I'll do anything you ask.
Watson...!
...
Okay.
SIGH

I want him.
What?!
ビク…
WINCE
O... okay fine...
...
GULP...
Arf!
...
MMM!
I want you to give this little cutie to me.
I'm a big dog-lover.
...
You did say anything, right?
W... well...
I promise.
カチャ…
KACHAK


MAY I HELP YOU...?
WINCE
HNN... HNN...
WINCE

OH... ALL RIGHT... PLEASE, COME IN...
HNN...
HA HA..
はは…
But this officer here wanted to run something by you, Tsuzuki-san...
We...we're terribly sorry to bother you in your time of grief...

Good—I managed to look like a grieving husband.
THANKS FOR HAVING US...
P...PARDON OUR INTRUSION..


I was just drinking some of the wine my wife used to love.
...
The second glass is hers... We used to always drink together like this...
CAT

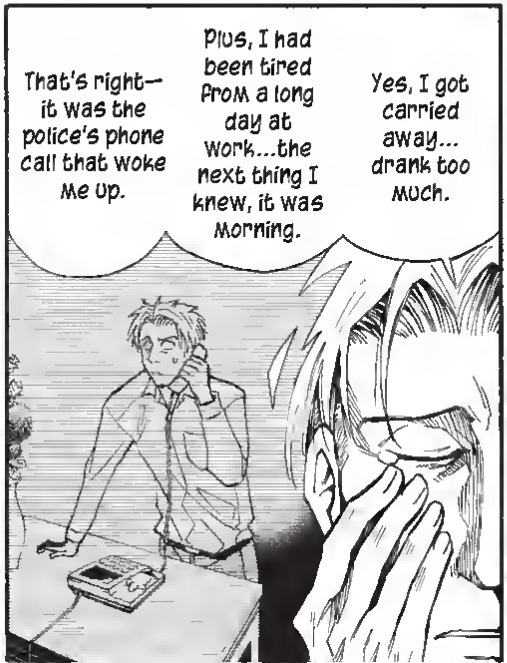
MY WIFE LOVED THIS SHOW!
WE USED TO ALWAYS SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCHING IT TOGETHER!
I'LL NEVER SEE HER SMILE AGAIN!
LUNGE
Great excuse, Muneo!!
Ts-Tsuzuki-san, calm down!!

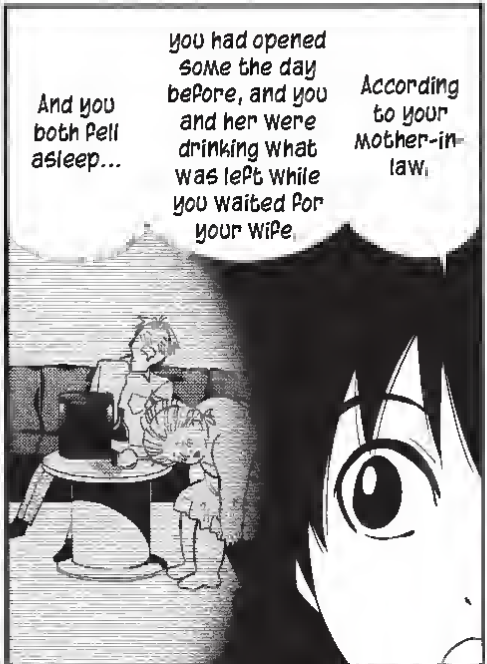
DU-DUN
Matsumoto ooooouuuut!
GYA HA HA HA HA HA!

...Uh... err...
CLICK
...

That wine looks expensive.
What? Yes...
It was another gift from my mother-in-law. We were saving it to drink together.
SOB SOB...
PETRUS
POMEROL
Grand Vin
Anyway...

Well, naturally, I'd say that one is more expensive.
ALTHOUGH IT DEPENDS ON THE YEAR, OF COURSE..
Oh, you mean the Romanée-Conti!
ROMANÉE-CONTI
Which one was more expensive?
You had an open bottle of wine here when we came after your wife was discovered.

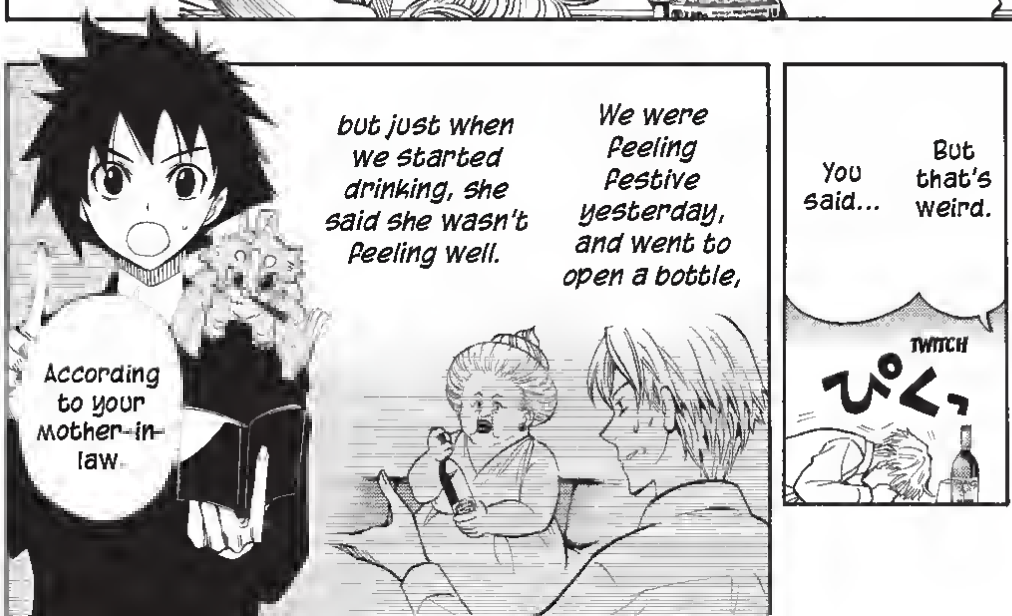

That's right— it was the police's phone call that woke me up.
Plus, I had been tired from a long day at work...the next thing I knew, it was morning.
Yes, I got carried away... drank too much.


And you both fell asleep...
you had opened some the day before, and you and her were drinking what was left while you waited for your wife.
According to your mother-in-law,

From what your mother-in-law told me,
it didn't seem like an anniversary or other special occasion...
on any old day of the week?
But why would you open such a super fine wine
UH... WELL...
The little— he interviewed the mother sow!!
Nice backup!!
GOOD!
That's wonderful! Just like an American couple!
I like it!
GOOD!
We...we liked to celebrate every day as a special occasion...My wife and I.
Huh.
That might be a stretch.

ARF!
I see. So whenever you opened a fine wine,
you always drank it together, right?
You won't beat me!
NOD

Your glass will always remain full!
I need more eye drops!!
LUNGE
がはっ
Of course! Just like this!
Oh, Miwa! Miwa!!


According to your mother-in-law,
but just when we started drinking, she said she wasn't feeling well.
We were feeling festive yesterday, and went to open a bottle,
You said...
But that's weird.
TWITCH
ぴくっ

So you had just one glass, and then you were going to drink it on another day with your wife.
And you put the rest of it in the cooler.
Then you got it out and drank it with your mother-in-law.

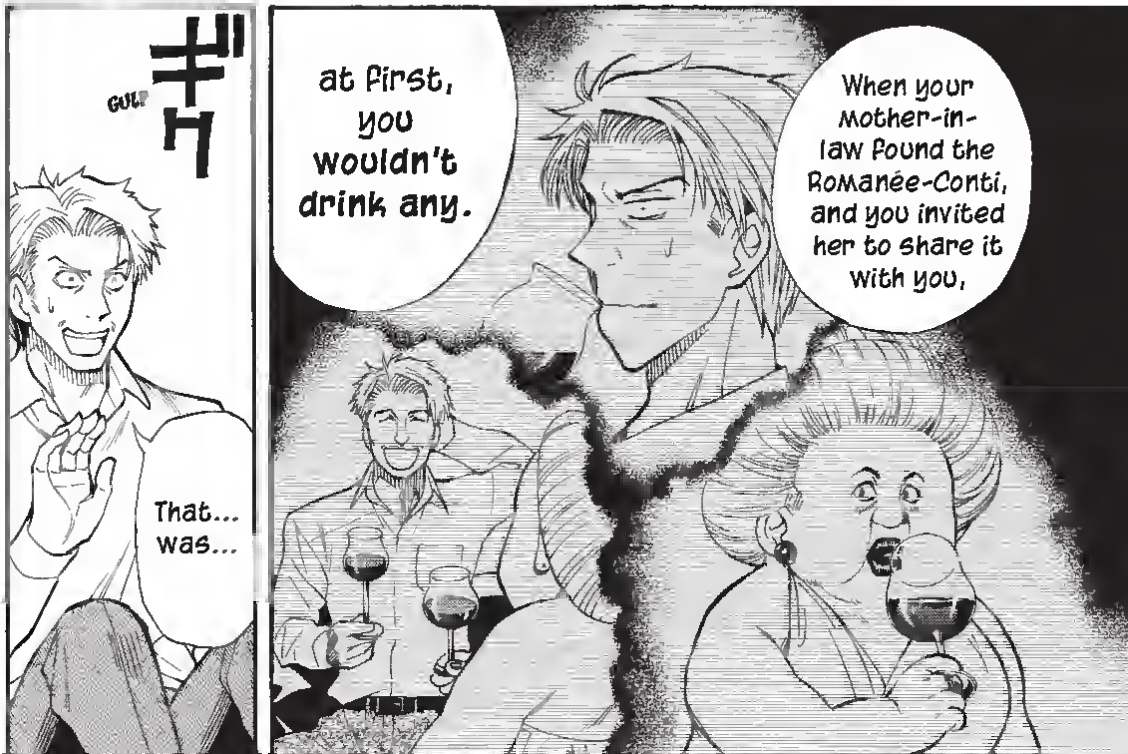
Why did you drink the whole bottle?
What...?

After she had just one glass,
she said she slept as if she'd taken a sleeping pill.
...That means you drank the rest yourself.
O...oh, I didn't drink all of it...

I understand Romanée-Conti goes for a million yen a bottle.
I also understand that if you leave wine out,
then it oxidizes and goes bad.
No, your mother-in-law said that when she woke up,
the wine bottle was left on the table.
If you drank every drop yourself...
Oh...oh, well, you see...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
Would make sure to put any leftover wine back in the cooler, where it will keep for another week.
Naturally, a wine enthusiast like yourself

Even though you always drink with your wife,
Then it's like you knew that she was never coming back.
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
N...no, I...
I left some for her...but I couldn't help...
B-DMP...
That's right! Nice work!
You were drunk, so you forgot to put it away, right?
That's exactly right!!
What are you, his accomplice?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Don't worry, Watson.

Got it!!
NOD
I have one more question, Tsuzuki-san.
Keep going— we'll find every single contradiction in Tsuzuki's story.
We're only getting warmed up!
and we'll beat him with them!!


GULP
That... was...
at first, you wouldn't drink any.
When your mother-in-law found the Romanée-Conti, and you invited her to share it with you,

So why, if you were going to drink so much, did you hesitate to drink that first glass?
...
After your mother-in-law mysteriously fell asleep,
you drank so much that you passed out, as well.
I lost my wife!
But you keep prodding me with your questions...
It's like you think I'm a suspect!
Then I had a little, and I started to feel like everything was okay...
...
I couldn't drink, because I was worried about my wife, that's all!
...I didn't feel like it!!
CLATTER
That happens, doesn't it?!
Just what are you trying to say, officer?!
There's nothing unnatural about that!

You killed your wife, and dumped her body.
Takeru-kun!
...
I hear you were always running after women.
Every single person at your work said so.
Wha... Wh-wh-wh-wha—
You did kill her, didn't you?
...What?

The morning of the day I first came here,
you had a fight with your wife about that habit of yours.
You lost control and hit her on the head...
Then everything you had bottled up inside came pouring out.
And you hit her again and again.
So many times that it changed the shape of her head.
...
Hey, wait a minute...
Based on the estimated time of death,
the murder took place between ten and ten-thirty...in other words,
Right before the cleaners showed up.

But if you'd canceled the cleaning at the last minute,
that would have stood out as a point against you later.
It was broad daylight, and you had no time to dispose of the body.
If you'd just left her there, all hell would have broken loose.
and let the women do their cleaning.
So for the time being, you stashed the body somewhere.
NO
That way, by having them clean everywhere,
you could prove that there was no body.
And that's how you plotted to avoid suspicion.

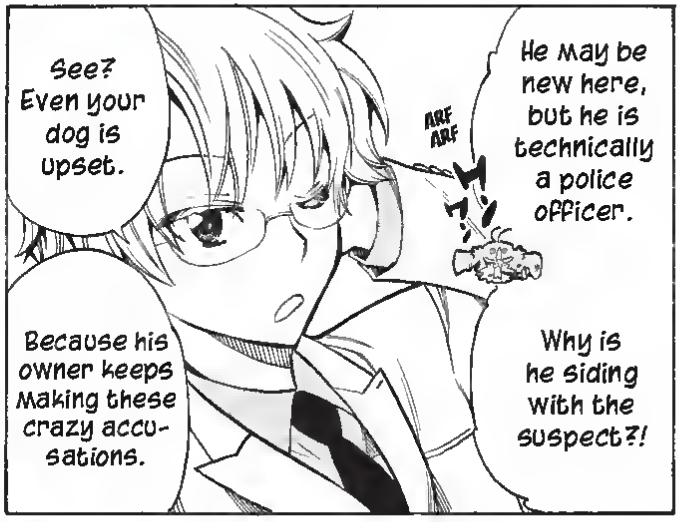
But then, the victim's mother showed up,
and suggested you share some wine.
But you
had to rent a car
and drive your wife's body away!!
That's why
you didn't want to drink it!

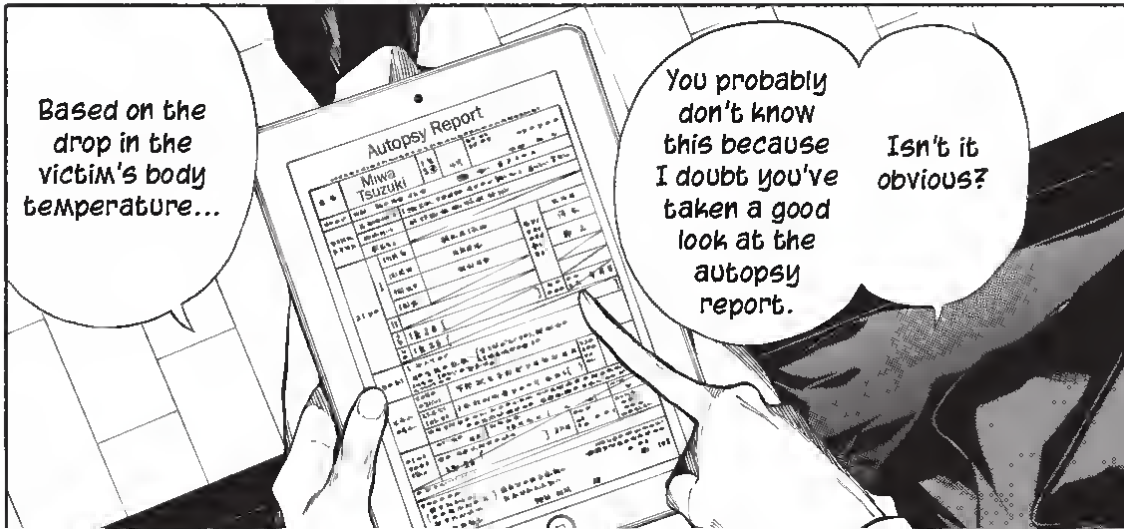
Isn't that right?
...
Muneo Tsuzuki-san!!
...

Aren't you, Muneo Tsuzuki-san?!
You're the one who killed your wife!
...
You almost have him...
One moment, please.
Good, Watson!
!?
ARF!

...What is it, Munakata-kun?
STOP
Him again...

HISSSS
Yes!! I'm counting on you, Capsule Monster!!
Crazy? How?

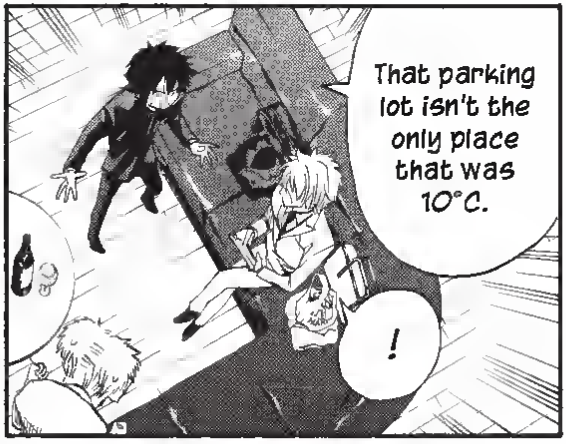

See? Even your dog is upset.
ARF ARF
He may be new here, but he is technically a police officer.
Because his owner keeps making these crazy accusations.
Why is he siding with the suspect?!


Based on the drop in the victim's body temperature...
Autopsy Report
Miwa Tsuzuki
You probably don't know this because I doubt you've taken a good look at the autopsy report.
Isn't it obvious?

And that's how all the pieces fit together.
In other words, she was left in the alley where we found her immediately after the murder.
we know that she was left in an environment of around 10°C
between her estimated time of death and the time she was discovered.
ARF!
There's more to an investigation than forcing the pieces together, amateur!
GRR...
The fool...
He's reported on countless murders.
Murderer on the Loose
Tsuzuki is an anchorman.
Of course he'd think of SOME trick to make it look like she'd been outside!!
He KNEW that they could calculate an accurate time of death.

NOD NOD
ARF!
?!
Now, Watson! We'll teach the killer
and this upstart detective a lesson!!

...So he left her in the garden or the garage.
Is that what you're getting at?
HEH HEH.


That parking lot isn't the only place that was 10°C.
!

He even asked us to clean the garden and the garage.

He wanted us to clean the whole house.
Yes, something about a mouse problem.
Too bad! Anchorman Tsuzuki asked the cleaners to clean there, too.

Besides, his car was out for repairs—he didn't have one readily available.
That would have made it impossible to carry her out into the neighborhood.
...You see?
You're not going to tell me that he climbed over the wall and hid her in the neighbor's house, are you?
That would be suicide.
the crime must have been committed within fifteen minutes of 10:30.
Based on the estimated time of death and the testimony from the cleaners,
the cleaners were already at work.
At eleven o'clock,

to rent a car, dump the body, and return it in that time.
It would have been impossible
And of course he's not going to take a taxi.

He would have had
30–40 minutes, tops—to hide the body.

No offense, Tsuzuki-san...

Oh.
You can search the world over
and never find a suitcase big enough to hold her...

UH.
SMIRK
SMIRK
SMIRK
ARF!
This is it!
You know what to do, Watson!
NOD
S-SOB! NO, IT'S OKAY! HER PLEASANT PLUMPNESS WAS ONE OF THE THINGS I LIKED ABOUT HER...
OH! COME ON!
...
...
...Tsuzuki-san.
After the cleaning ladies went home,
I was here waiting for you to get home.

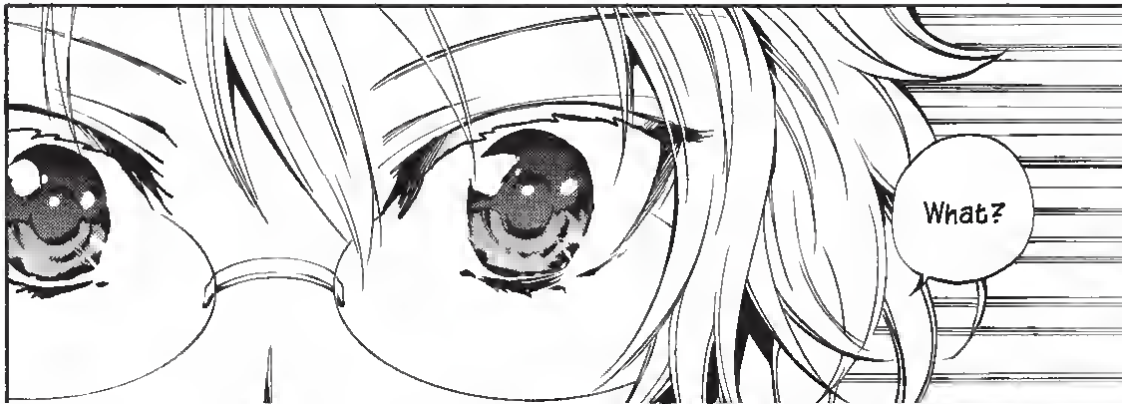
ALONE...
What ...?
I remember it being awfully cold.
And one more thing
D...did they?
MAYBE THE HEATER WAS BROKEN?
No, the cleaners said the same thing.
Th-that can't be... you must have imagined it.
There were wine bottles
decorating your entire home.

Now, when you leave wine somewhere too hot or too cold,
it goes bad, right?
How can he remember that?!
Now I'm only seeing a few here and there...
CHILL
So why would a wine enthusiast like you do something like that?
It's over!!
My savior!!
Ha! The bottles were empty, of course.
Wine enthusiasts like to flaunt their collections by keeping the empty bottles as decorations.
My wife was a bit of a show-off at times...
HA HA HA.
No, that's fine. You're exactly right.
Oh, I'm sorry. I butted in again...

I made sure to ask
What?
the cleaning ladies about it.

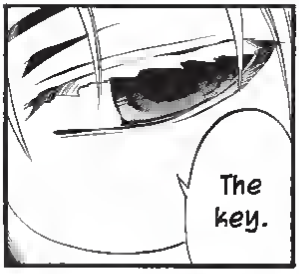
You've given yourself away.

And every bottle on display had wine in it.
They checked when they dusted the bottles off.

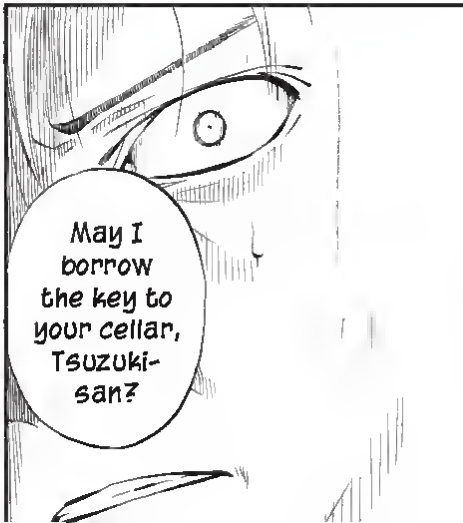

What?

You had the heater off to make the room cold.
...
You had to
if you didn't want to damage your precious wines.
So why did you have to go so far
ZSH!
to decorate the house with full wine bottles?
You... you can't mean—
That's exactly what I mean, Munaka-ta-kun.
While the cleaners were here,
Anchorman Tsuzuki
BAM!
hid his wife's body...

...In the giant wine cellar,
and locked the door.


The key.

There... there's no need!! I didn't do it...
Tsuzuki-san!


May I borrow the key to your cellar, Tsuzuki-san?

...

When you pulled out a shelf to show us some wine earlier,
KACHAK
I figured they must all be removable.
I knew it...
Sometimes you want to leave a bottle upright before you drink it,
and some wines come in thicker bottles.
So all cellars have removable shelves.
You're right...if you take out all the shelves,
even that giant could be made to fit inside.
Yes, and more than anything, it locks.
So the cleaners wouldn't even try to look inside.
They wouldn't find any mice inside a full wine cellar.

That's incredible! And that's why we determined
NO...I...I DIDN'T...
MUTTER
MUTTER
that the victim had been left in a cold place.
Yup! He probably set it to about the same temperature as outside.
Since it looks like you can set it to higher temperatures, too.

AND I COULDN'T RENT A CAR BECAUSE I HAD BEEN DRINKING! IT'S 100% IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO MOVE HER THERE!! WELL? ON MY BACK?! NO WAY!!
EVEN IF I COULD STUFF HER IN THERE, SHE'S LIKE 90 KG*!
THAT WOULD KILL ME!!
RAR
NO!
I DIDN'T DO IT!!

*About 198 lbs.

WHAT?
Of course!
...I'm sure you've solved this, as well?
Since she used it for a chronic problem.
...
It must be somewhere in the house.
So she would go around in a wheelchair.
FIP
His wife had chronic lower back problems.
Sometimes she couldn't walk.
Just like the ones we'll find in that cellar...
...
I'm sure we'll also find traces of blood.
If we find a wheelchair in the house,

I think my wife's blood is in the cellar!
She was organizing the cellar a little while ago.
She accidentally broke a bottle and sliced open her hand!!
PASH
Oh! I...I just remembered!!
...
...
Oh, it was awful!
NO, REALLY!
Do you know what this is?
That's ...
FWOOSH
!
Tsuzuki-san...
And I think you'll find it on her wheelchair, too!!
I accidentally let go when I was pushing her on a slope. She crashed and there was blood everywhere...

We found it at the crime scene.
It's your wife's coat.

You wanted us to believe that the murder had taken place outside.
So you took the first coat you could find out of her closet,
RUSTLE
and left it at the crime scene...

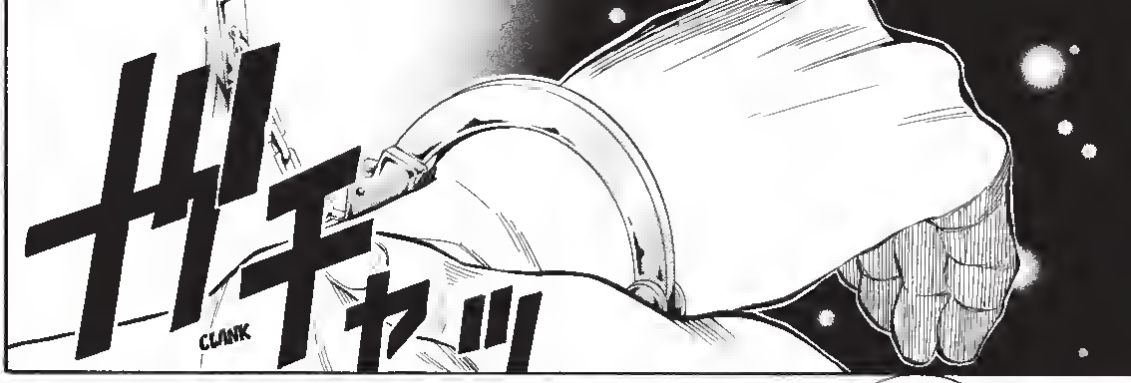
What?!

She must have gotten hot and taken it off, and that's when the killer...
Y...yes...it's the coat she was wearing when she left that day.
She couldn't have been wearing it.

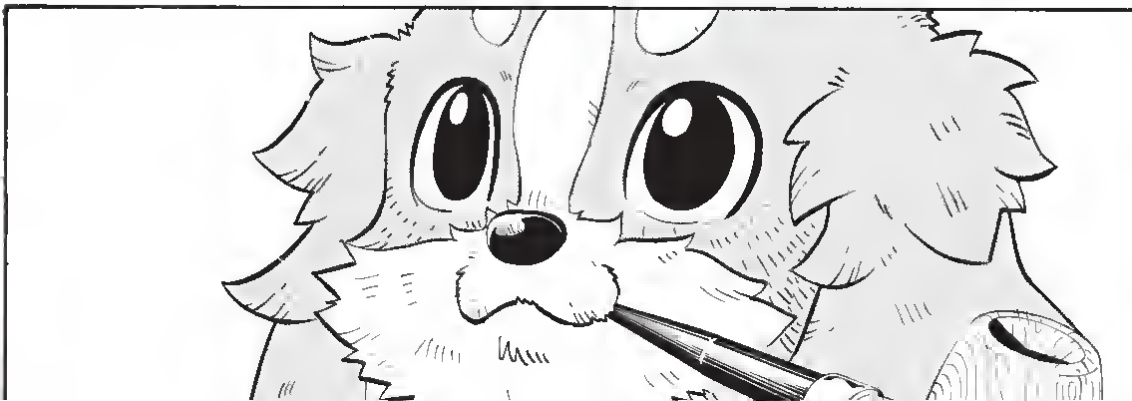
...
Z!
But this coat
was one she wore when she was thinner.
As you can see, your wife is a little too big to wear it now.
SS

!
That's why she couldn't get rid of it.
Her mother bought it for her to wear on your honeymoon.

...
She would lose enough weight to wear it again.
Or maybe she thought someday
Fat or thin, a pig is a pig.
...Hmph.
She would have been wasting her time.
It wouldn't have fixed her personality.
...
You've earned this one.
Go on.
...
Arf!


カチャリ
CLANK

Muneo Tsuzuki.
You're under arrest for the murder of Miwa Tsuzuki.



Coffee Time 4 Reward for an Arrest

I apologize to all our viewers!!
I'm sorry! I'm so terribly sorry!!
APOLOGIZING BOOBS
HELLO, I'M KUWABARA STANDING IN FOR OUR REGULAR ANCHORMAN!
APOLOGIZING BOOBS
The crime committed by Muneo Tsuzuki,
has created waves across the entire television industry!
who was formerly the head anchorman of our program,
LA LA LA LA
Arf!
This is getting really big, Takeru.
Yeah! Right, Sherdog?
Oh, My, My.
POLICE

A.. ARF!
You might turn into an ordinary dog...
That was close! If she finds out who you really are...
It's like Sherdog understands everything you say.
ERK!
IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY
Th-that's silly! HA HA...
Don't be so formal, Dad!!
Making his first arrest so early in his career...
Now, in honor of the last member of the Wajima police family
Ahem!
Oolong tea for you, Takeru.
OH, YOU KNOW...
LET'S JUST DRINK ALREADY!
It's just the family. What's with the speech?
Come on, at least give me a cola!
...
Yeah, yeah.
Don't be silly! Sweet drinks don't go with sukiyaki!
YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD.

To Watson's grand new beginning!
ARF
ARF
ARF
Cheers!!
Uh, oh yeah.
Can Sherdog join in the toast, too?
WHIM PER
Good idea.
I prefer a single malt Scotch, but very well.
ARF!
He can have Milk.
かんぱーい!!
CHEERS!!
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
It really is like he's talking.
HO HO HO.

Ugh, I've always had to wipe up after you—ever since you were in diapers!
What happened?! Have you already screwed up your first assignment?!
Wajima speaking.
What? Takeru?
Still, you surprised me.
ぷるるーーー
CLINK
When you called the Violent Crimes Division...
Then what is it?!
I didn't screw up! Listen to me before you start biting my head off, Sis!
Inspector Wajima.
...What?
I'm requesting that you send someone from Violent Crimes to the scene.
I've arrested Anchorman Tsuzuki on suspicion of murder.

You didn't believe me until you got to the scene?!
And the elite candidate kid all in a huff.
I thought you were joking, but then I went to check it out.
And there was Muneo Tsuzuki in handcuffs.
O...ouch.
You've always been a troublesome little brother, ever since you were a little rugrat!
Of course not. I thought your delusions had exploded on you.
I figured you'd made some kind of huge mistake, so I was trying to work out how to get you out of the mess you'd made!
わはははは
Hee hee hee...
Ugh, you're drunk, sis!
Or how about your first year in Middle school, the case of the robbery that never happened?
Do you remember the case of the missing backpack when you were in grade school?

KACHAK
Ugh, stupid Airin...
STEP
STEP
I got a fine taste of your dazzlingly dark history tonight, Watson.
ARF!
Wait, Takeru.
...
GULP!
NOSEBLEED
SLAM
I'M so sorry, Dear Elder Sister!
Two years ago,
you said you wanted to go to the police academy instead of college...
Sis...
I almost want to compliment you on your decision.
It surprised me. I was against it. But now,

Well... anyway...
...
KACHAK
You have a good personality for interacting with civilians.
I had no idea you could solve murders...
I thought you'd make a good kōban officer.
...
Airin...
Congratulations on your first success, Takeru!
SOUND OF SHERDOG'S NOSEBLEED
PFET
What are you looking at?!
KOMK
Your breasts really are big.

...

I'll turn into a normal dog.
There's a strong possibility that when someone learns my true identity,

It was exactly two years ago
that Sherdog and I had that talk...

It Might... be age...
Age?

And the manga artist and Irene can't
But you and Miss Miki can know.
Yeah. I wonder what the difference is.

I am an unscientific entity... anything could happen at any time.
If my hypothesis is correct, then we can only remain as we are until...
Let's ...
!
Stories of fairies and spirits that can only be seen by children.
The stories have been around for ages.
There are sounds that you can no longer hear when you're an adult, as well.
It may be that they have a sixth sense that allows them to detect such things.
...Quite so.
I just have to make sure no one else finds out.
Let's not talk about this!
I want Sherdog and me to keep...
I want...
...

I'll learn everything I can from the old super-sleuth.
We'll solve as many cases as we can before time runs out!
Then I'll carry on his legacy!!

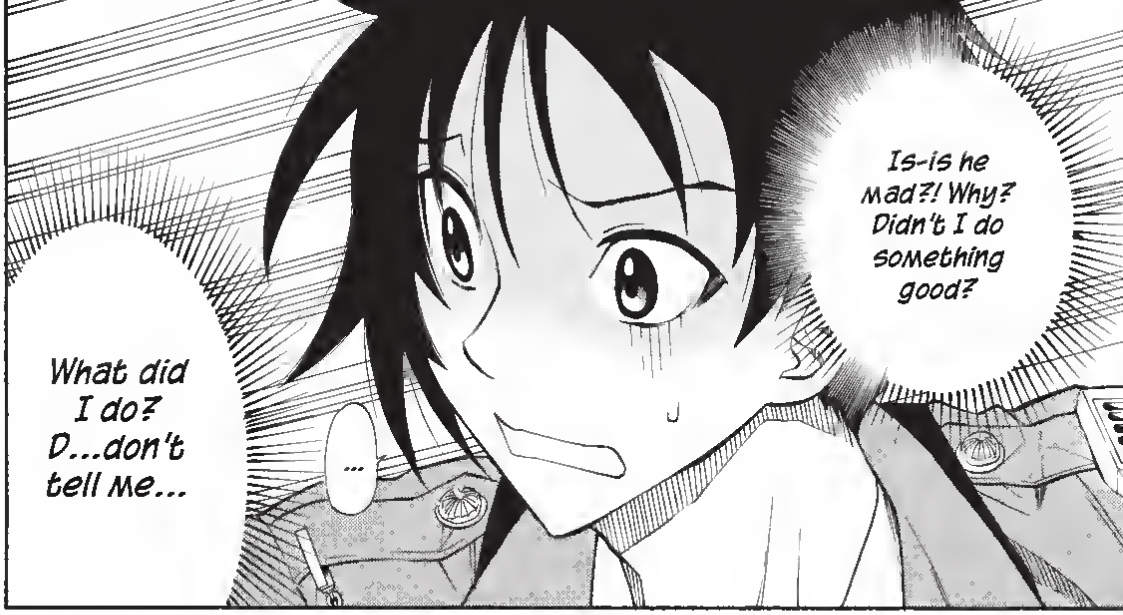
So I have to hurry and...
But there's only so much I can do in my current position.

Gross!! When...when did you get into the liquor?!
What?
You can't make a proper toast with Milk. HA HA HA
Mm...? I had a bit of your father's Scotch... MUMBLE MUMBLE
COUGH
COUGH

BELCH
MWAAAH
?!

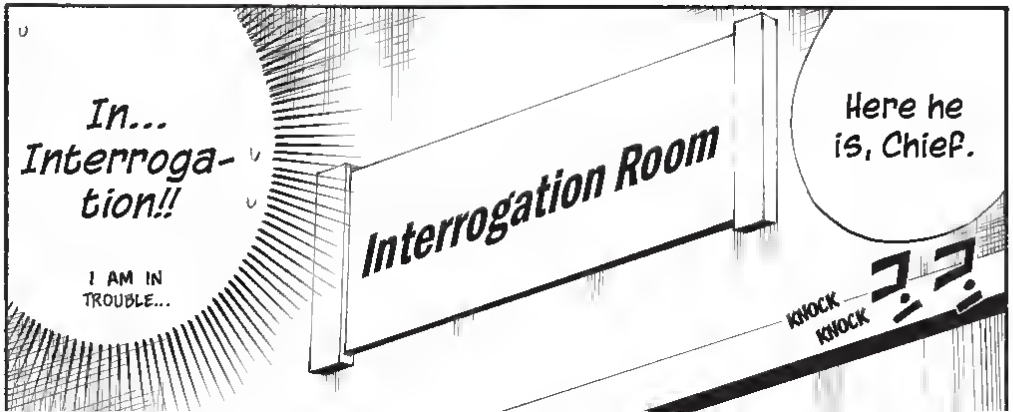
...We can do it, Sher-dog.

Wajima-kun!!
Nanami.
You're coming with Me!!
CLAMP
H-Haraya-Mada-sempai?!
WAAA-JIII-MAAA.
But you're getting carried away, Nanami...
LOOM
ぬっ
I heard the news! You made an arrest already?
SHAKE SHAKE
ふぃん ふぃん
You've always been amazing— ever since high school!
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
Th... thanks.
IS YOUR SKIRT SHORTER?


Is-is he mad?! Why? Didn't I do something good?
...
What did I do? D...don't tell me...

Or is it, y'know, 'cause I went around acting like a detective when I'm just a rookie kōban officer?

I'm in trouble for sneaking Sherdog everywhere with me?!


In... Interroga-tion!!
I AM IN TROUBLE...
Interrogation Room
Here he is, Chief.
KNOCK KNOCK

Thank you for coming.

Th... thank you, sir.
Good, good, good... now.

My goodness, Wajima-kun.
CREAK...

GULP...
Ch...Chief Yoshida, the chief of detectives!!
Now, now, have a seat.

Z!
That's too bad...
B-DMP
How are you getting on in your kōban?
V-very well, sir! The other officers are treating me well, and...
I see. Hmmm...
...What? Uh... um...
B-DMP
You see, Wajima-kun.
B-DMP
We've decided... you see...
...
Considering the recent Muneo Tsuzuki case,
and your involvement in it,
SS
Notice of Personal Chang

Munakata-kun...
CLACK
CLACK
Oh...
E...excuse me, sir.
SHUT
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

!
At your little kōban.
HMPH.
Why don't you get back to work?

Did he...?
CLACK
CLACK
Did...

...
Officer!
!
TEP
TEP
I got the internship at my dad's paper!
Guess what, guess what!
Something's happened!
Miki!

Wow, that's great!
I hope you get to go to crime scenes soon, too!
That means, since I'M a journalist-in-training,
What?
I already get to work at crime scenes!
TWIRL
TWIRL
Well, about that...
What happened?
Y-you've already been fired?! What did you do, Takeru?!
Stop thinking like my sister.
What?!
Actually, today's my last day at this kōban.

I've been trans-ferred!
To the detective division!!

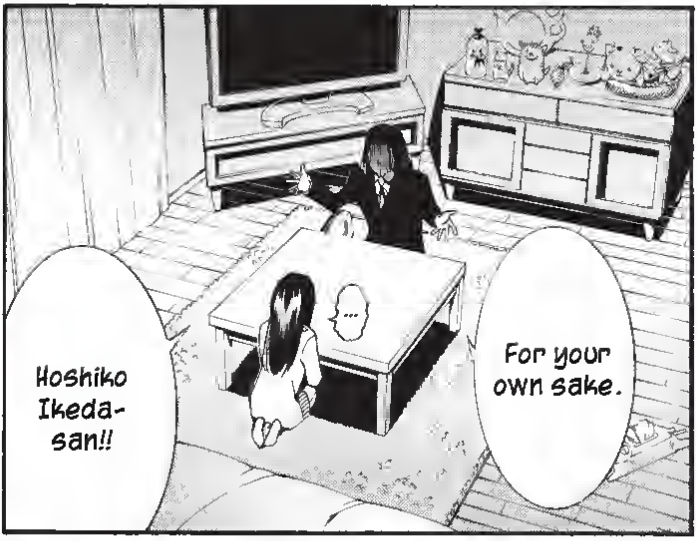
So
We really might see each other at a crime scene.
What...?
So... does that mean...?
Yup!

Starting tomorrow,
I'm going to be a detective!

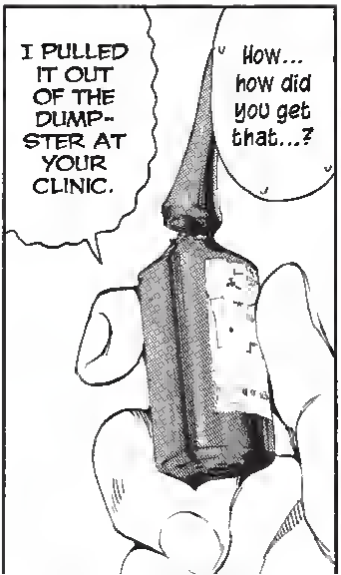
Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 1

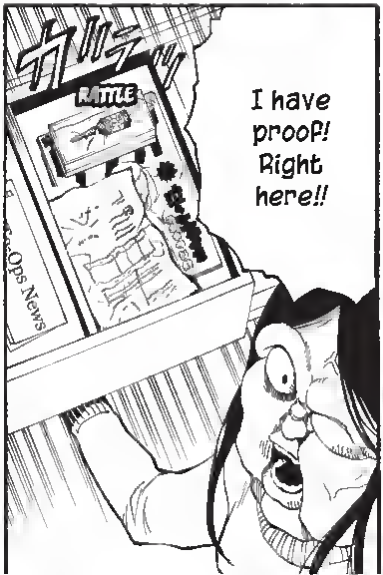
Please accept my offer.
Mun Petit
And I'll add 300 thousand yen* as a get-well gift.
I will issue a refund for all previous operations.

* About $3000



BAM
...DID THIS TO MY FACE!!


I PULLED IT OUT OF THE DUMP-STER AT YOUR CLINIC.
How... how did you get that...?

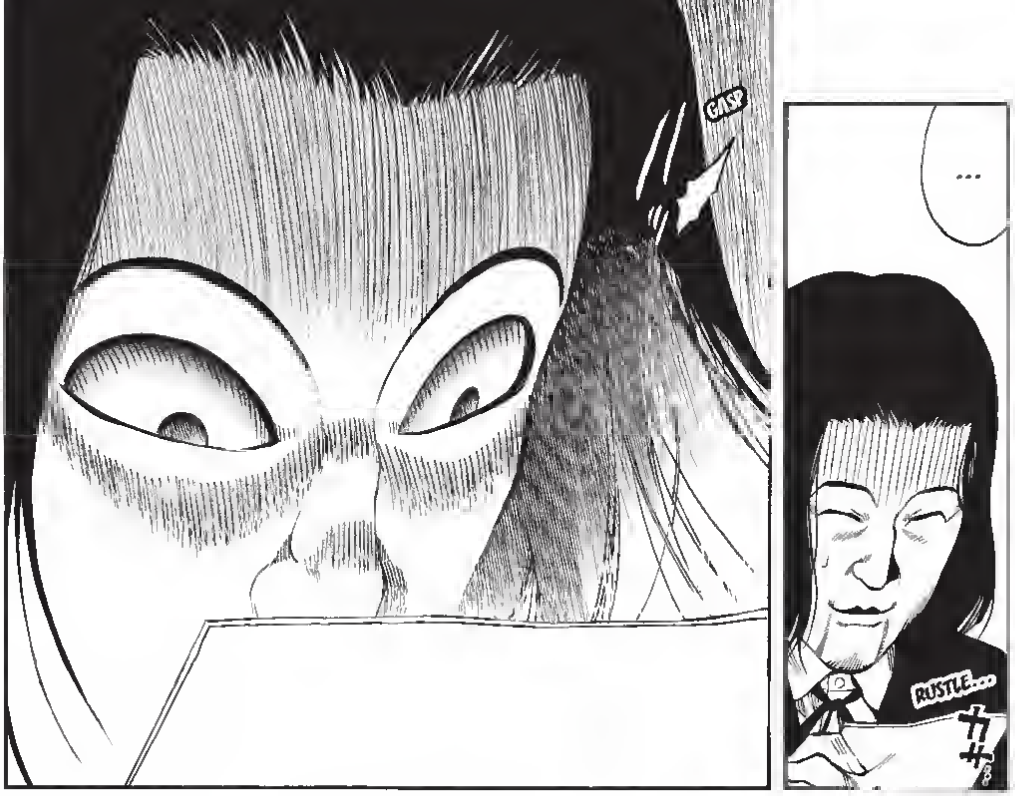

I have proof! Right here!!
Ops News

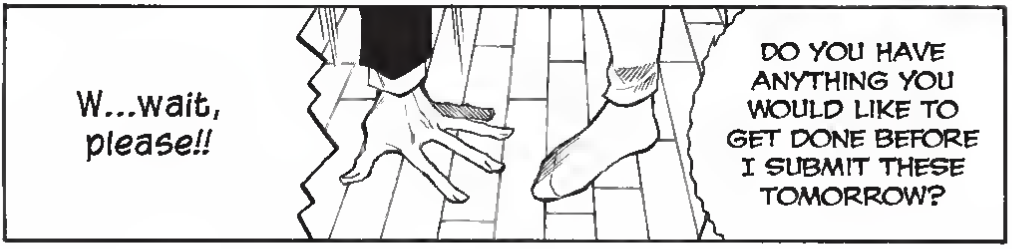
What?!
N...no, that was just your bad luck...
BAH

It's a warning that says that these shoddy drugs are mixed so poorly that they're likely to have impurities!!
Look, I have magazine articles, too!
RUSTLE
...
I investigated everything, and look! I have papers that prove it!!
Importation Form
Yoshito Akane-dono)
These illegal, fake drugs were imported under your name!!
You made a killing, selling these as high-end plastic surgery drugs, and you got them practically for free!
BAM

And your crappy surgery could never fix it!
That's why my face ended up like this!
HISSSS
You'll be paying in the hundreds of Millions* for damages!
RUMMAGE
RUSTLE

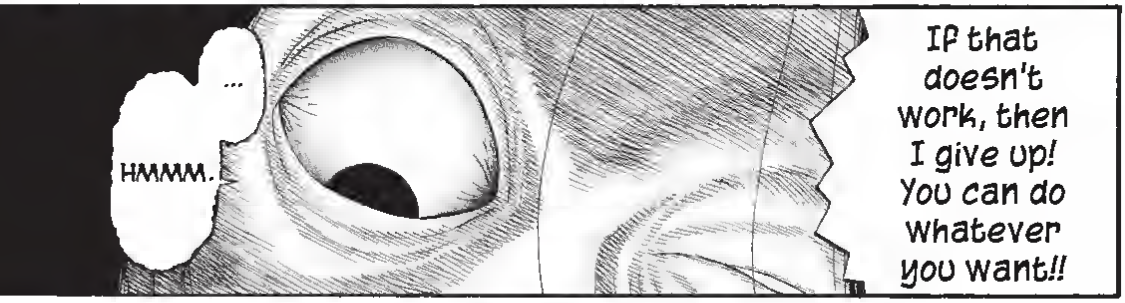
*Millions of dollars

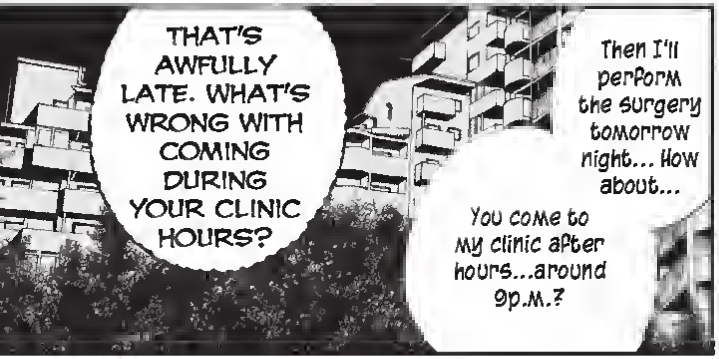

GASP
...
RUSTLE...


W...wait, please!!
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET DONE BEFORE I SUBMIT THESE TOMORROW?

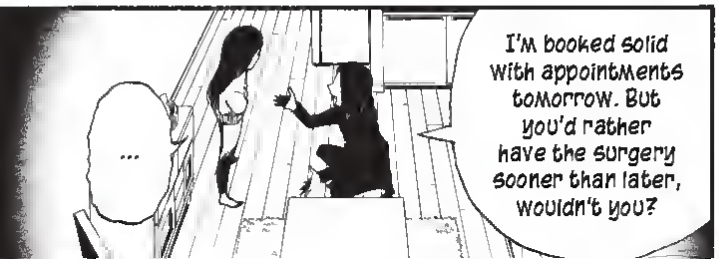
I know something that will work!!
Please, give me one more chance!!
!

and you'll be reborn, with a face several times more beautiful than it ever was!
A new drug I ordered from Germany!!
It will get rid of the side effects,


...
HMMM.
If that doesn't work, then I give up! You can do whatever you want!!


THAT'S AWFULLY LATE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH COMING DURING YOUR CLINIC HOURS?
Then I'll perform the surgery tomorrow night... How about...
You come to my clinic after hours...around 9p.M.?

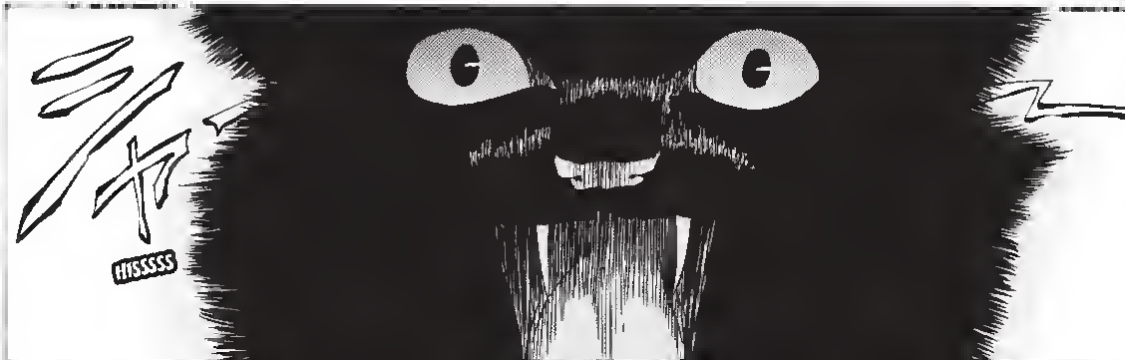
IN FOR A PENNY, IN FOR A POUND. YOU'VE ALREADY SCREWED UP THIS FAR, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY.
...ALL RIGHT. GIVE IT A TRY.
ZOOM
Th...thank you so much!


...
I'm booked solid with appointments tomorrow. But you'd rather have the surgery sooner than later, wouldn't you?

Th...thank you so much...!!
DON'T FORGET.
HISS

...
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
CLATTER
ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE THERE.

Heh...heh... heh heh heh heh heh heh heh heh heh...
Some things can't be done during normal office hours...
Like Monster Extermination!

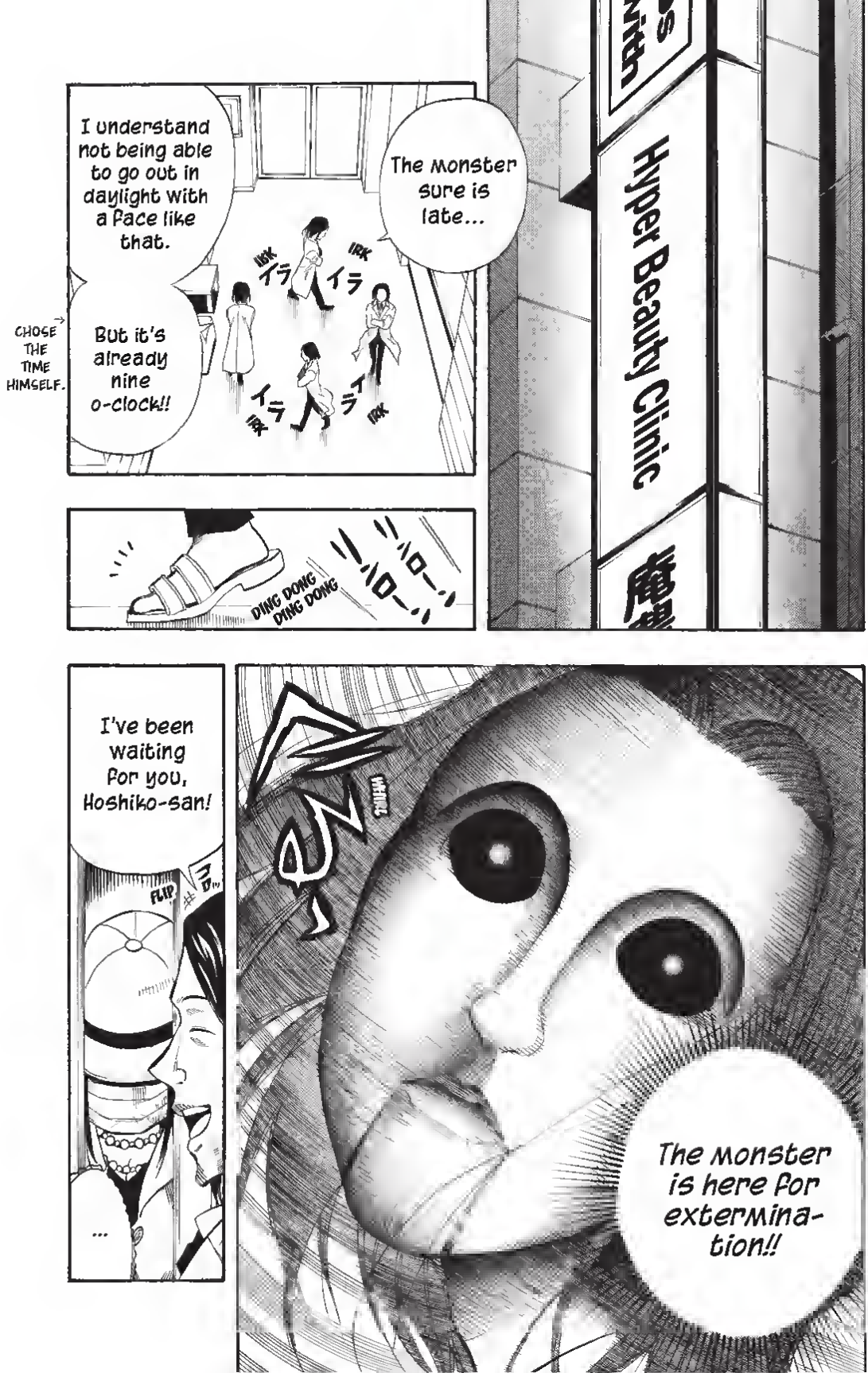

HISSSSS

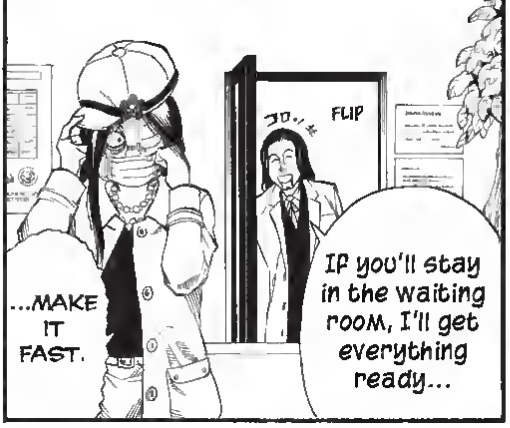
DUN
G...
G...
DUN
G...
DUN
Good—good morning, everyone!
I'm the newest member of the detective division!
My name is Takeru Wajim-ack!
OSHIN

わはははは
WA HA HA HA HA
...
Oh, you're the one!
He's so young!
The kid who took that anchorman out to dry...
He's adorable! Like a high school kid!
Yeah. What a relief.
HEH HEH HEH...
I see they're giving you a warm welcome.
...
HOP
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
わいわい
Well, that's how old he is, right?
Well, why not? The lovable klutz role suits you.
HMMM. So that's how you're going to play it.
YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH

Well, you may have him to thank for getting you into the detective division, after all...
GRRR...
He...he never changes.
The Chief says he wants us to go to crime scenes together for a while.
Oh, Munakata-kun.
Japan just loves the buddy system. What a pain.
Did you say something?
Nn?
PSST!
How condescending of you, Sherdog.
ARF!
So why not babysit the naive young master, eh?
? Right...
Nope! I'm looking forward to working together, Munakata-kun!

Wajima-kun, Munakata-kun.
Oh.
Chief Yoshida!!
Ho ho ho, relax, Wajima-kun.
STILT
カチン コチン
STILT
Hi.
You know.
Like Detective Denim in "Taiyō ni Hoero!"
♪ DU-NA-NA NA-NA-NA DAAA-NA-NAAA
I loved that show.
I want you to dress more youthfully when you go on investigations.
BOYS?!
LIKE SHICHI-GO-SAN.
You boys aren't really ready for those clothes yet, are you?
I'll Google it later.
HO HO HO.
ぶぉっ ぶぉっ ぶぉっ
What's "Taiyō ni Hoero!"?
DENIM?
Y...yes, sir.


Hyper Beauty Clinic
魔
The monster sure is late...
I understand not being able to go out in daylight with a face like that.
But it's already nine o-clock!!
CHOSE THE TIME HIMSELF.
IRK
イラ
DING DONG DING DONG
I've been waiting for you, Hoshiko-san!
FLIP
...
SWERVE
The monster is here for extermination!!

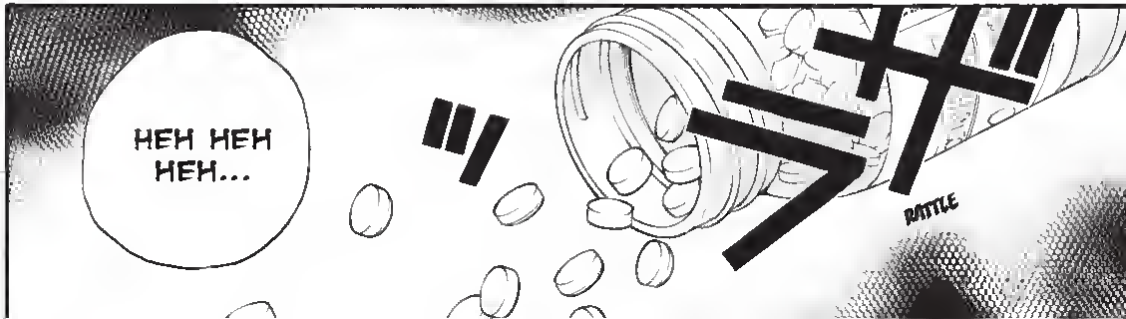

FLIP
...MAKE IT FAST.
If you'll stay in the waiting room, I'll get everything ready...

I really appreciate it.
WELL, I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE.
Don't act so beastly, beast.

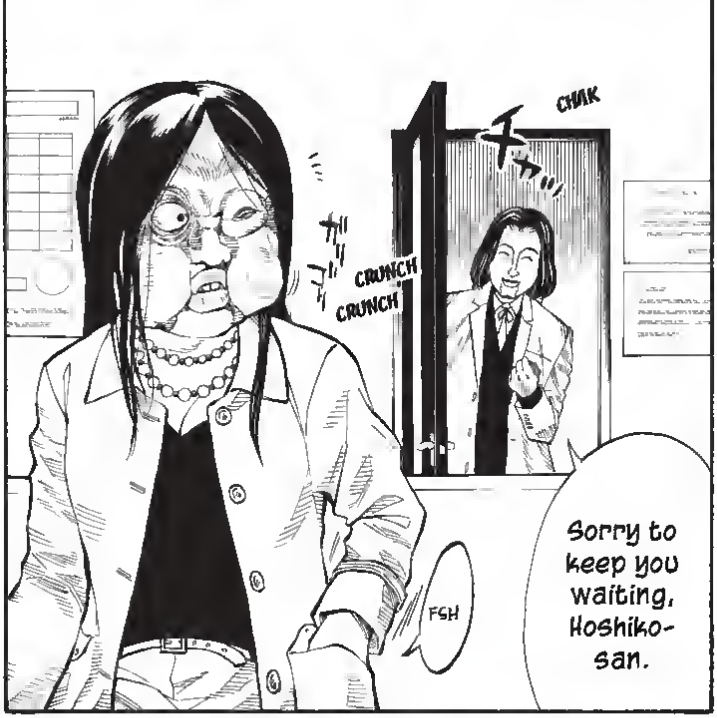
PLOP
SHUT
SIGH...

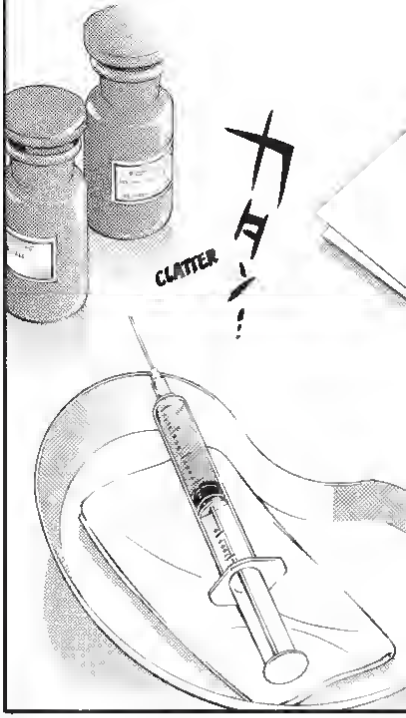
Please help yourself
...
We have the new Peach, Honey, and Maple flavors.

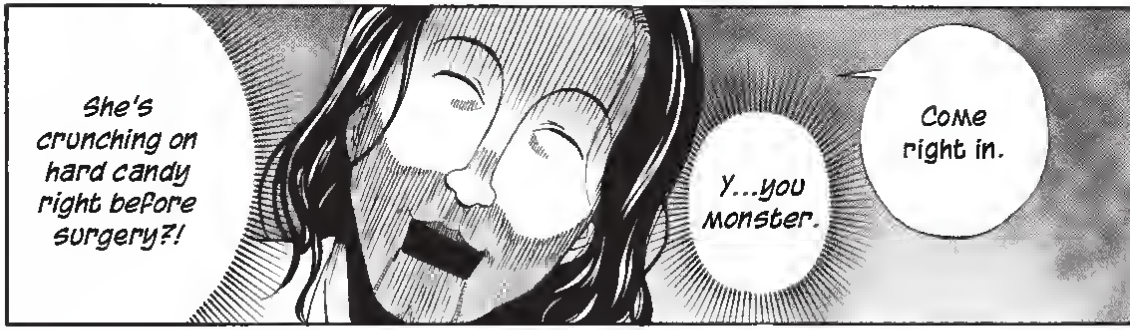
!


HEH HEH HEH...
RATTLE

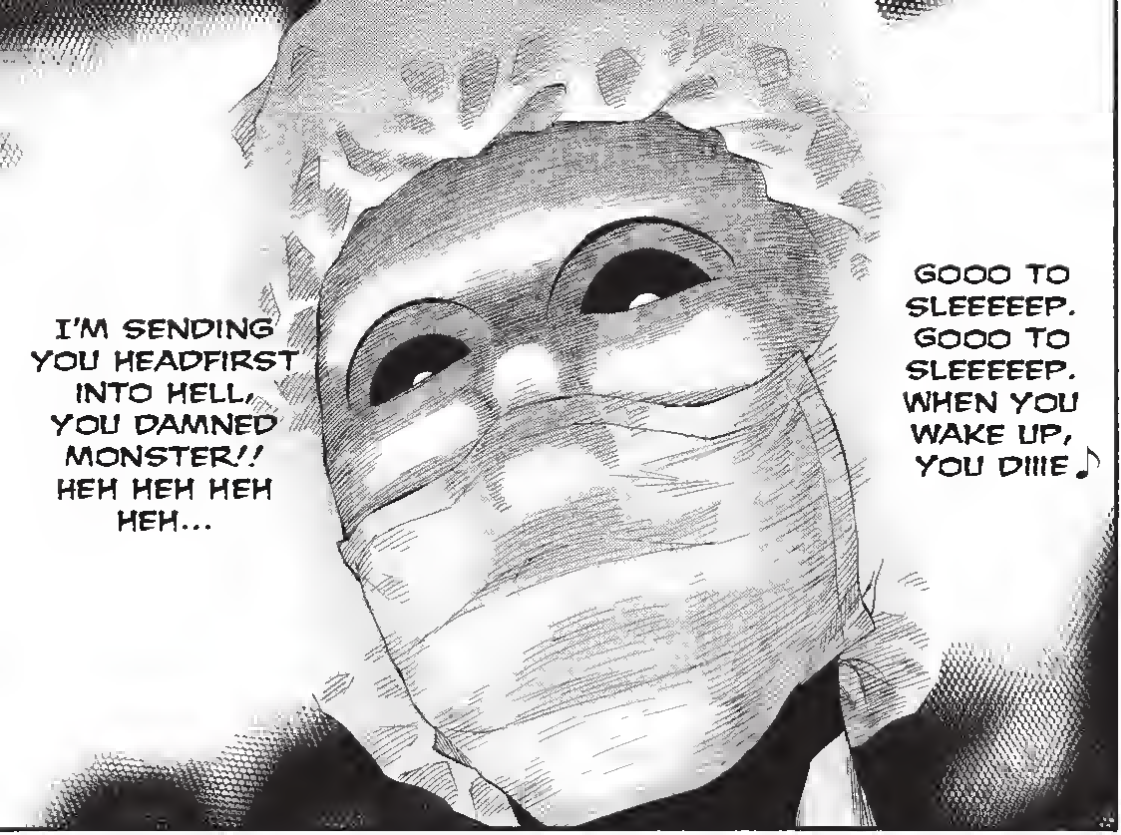
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
SHE'LL NEED A LOT OF DRUGS TO PUT HER TO SLEEP.
AS NEUROTIC AS SHE IS,
RUMMAGE
Now then...
is an injection of the same formula...
ZLRRRP
All that's left
SQUIRT
POP

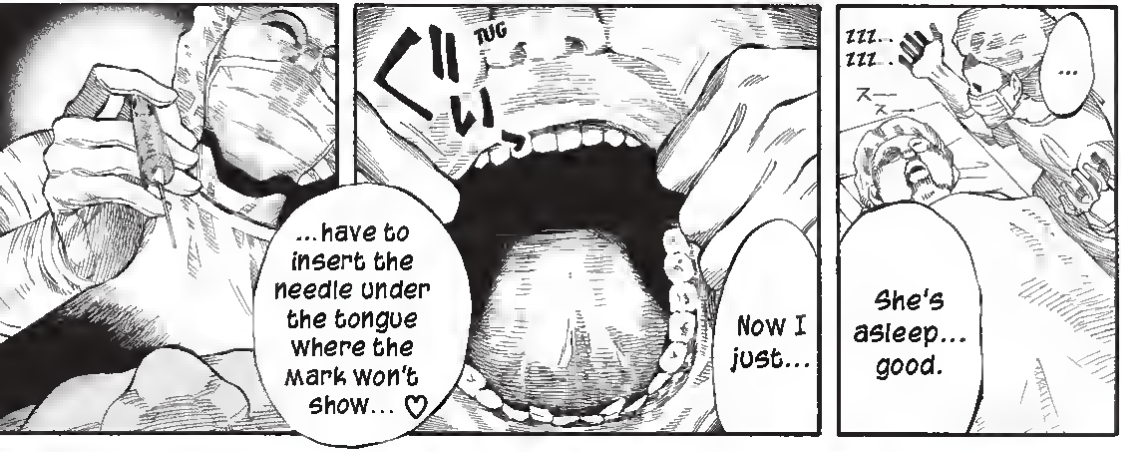

CHAK
CRUNCH CRUNCH
FSH
Sorry to keep you waiting, Hoshiko-san.


CLATTER


She's crunching on hard candy right before surgery?!
Y...you monster.
Come right in.

...
スゥ...
SWOO...
Now, first, I'll need to give you some anesthetic.
JUST RELAX
Since I'm not doing any surgery!!
I DON'T HAVE TO CHANGE CLOTHES, DO I?
Oh, no, of course not♡


I'M SENDING YOU HEADFIRST INTO HELL, YOU DAMNED MONSTER!! HEH HEH HEH HEH...
GOOO TO SLEEEEEP. GOOO TO SLEEEEEP. WHEN YOU WAKE UP, YOU DIIIE♪


...have to insert the needle under the tongue where the mark won't show... ♡
TUG
Now I just...
zzz.. zzz..
スー スー
...
She's asleep... good.

Ugh, disgusting!
CHHHH...
Hyper Beauty Clinic

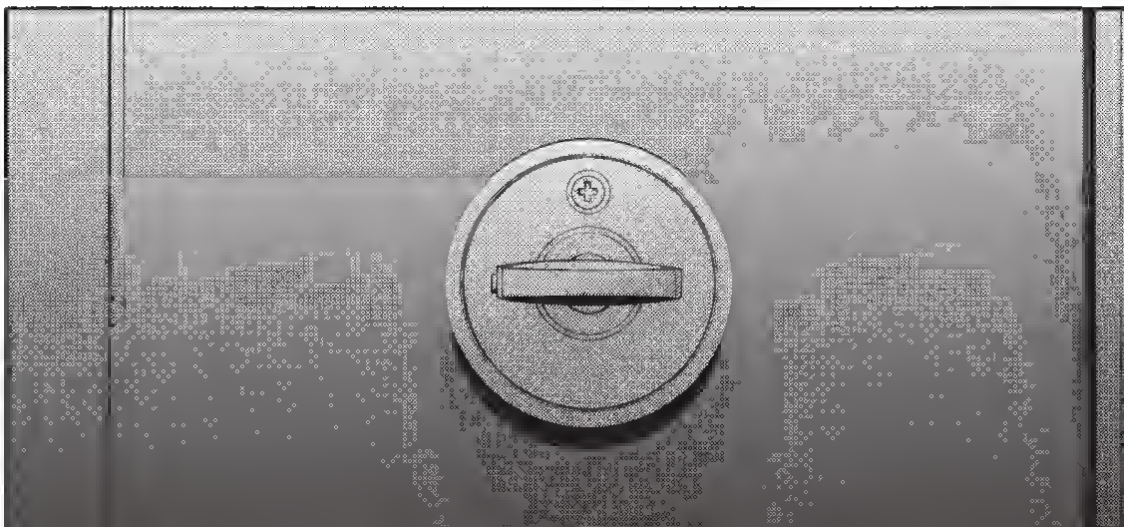
KREE
CHAK
CRUNCH
キョロ
GLANCE
GLANCE
...
CRUNCH
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
CRUNCH

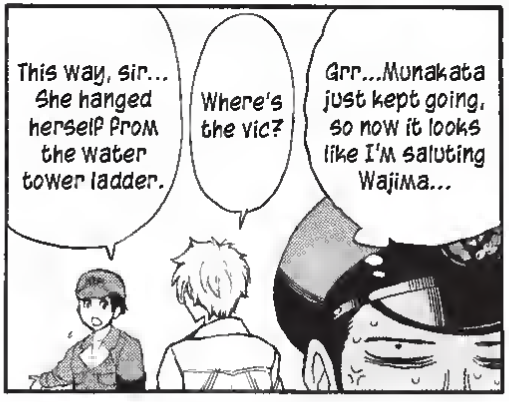
Whew...
First, I'll take her coat off...
ROLL...
KACHAK
KACHAK
...Now what do I do?
Or...
Do I change her clothes first?

HISSSSSSS!!!
?!
Y—
You little...
MEOOOW!
...
HISS!

And that.
HUFF..
HUFF...
Now I've retrieved all the evidence
Okay!
GAH
To Yomiuri Shimbun
To Shukan Kenkei
To ps News
Now I just...
C
R
E
E
E
E
A
K
SS
GAH

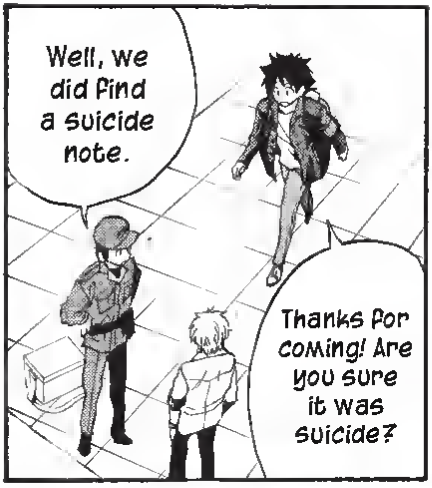
SHUT



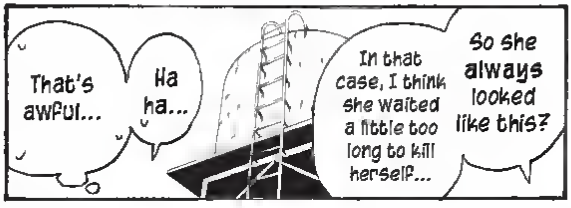

This way, sir... She hanged herself from the water tower ladder.
Where's the vic?
Grr...Munakata just kept going, so now it looks like I'm saluting Wajima...

Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 2

Whoa?!

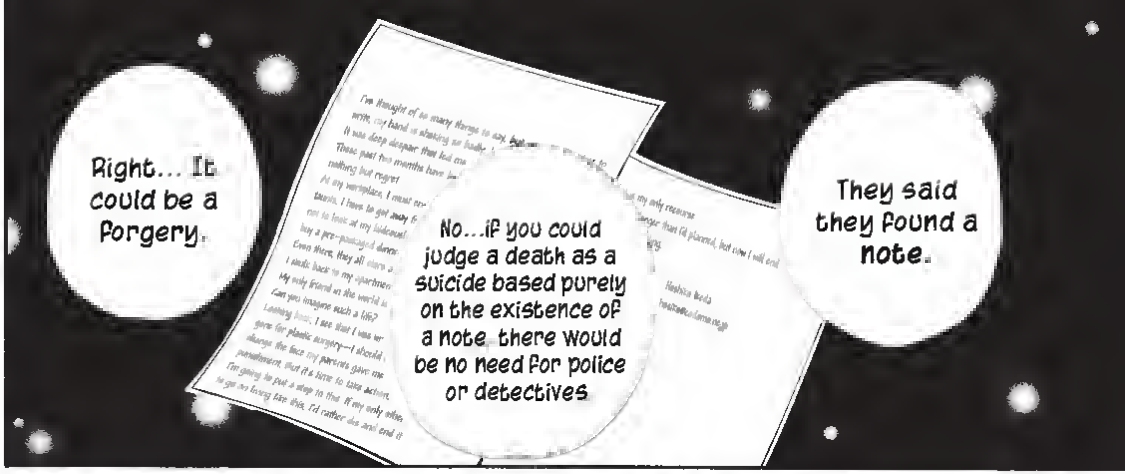

Well, we did find a suicide note.
Thanks for coming! Are you sure it was suicide?

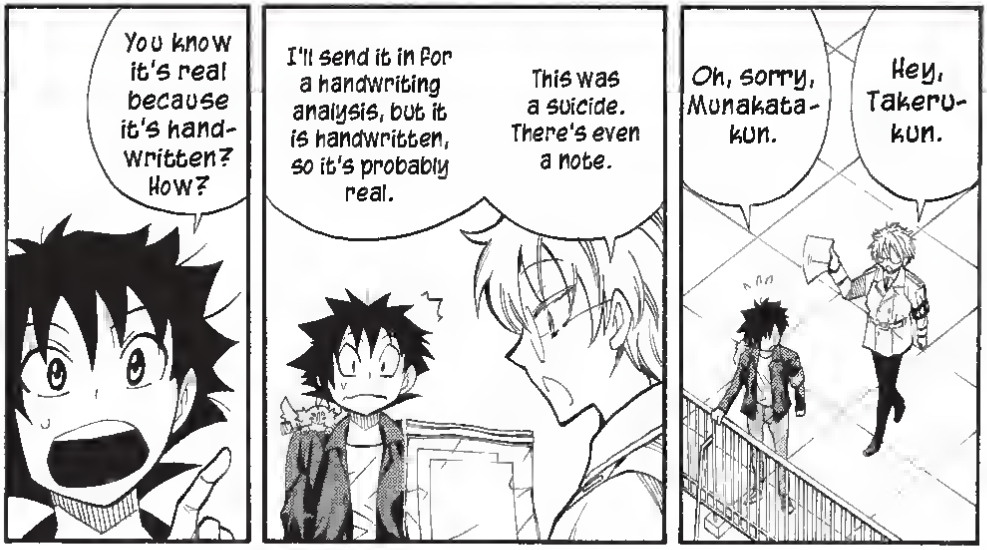
No, they haven't found signs of external damage to the face...
What happened...? Did she hit her face against something? Like, hard?


That's awful...
Ha ha...
In that case, I think she waited a little too long to kill herself...
So she always looked like this?

?!
No, this might not be a suicide.
ARF!

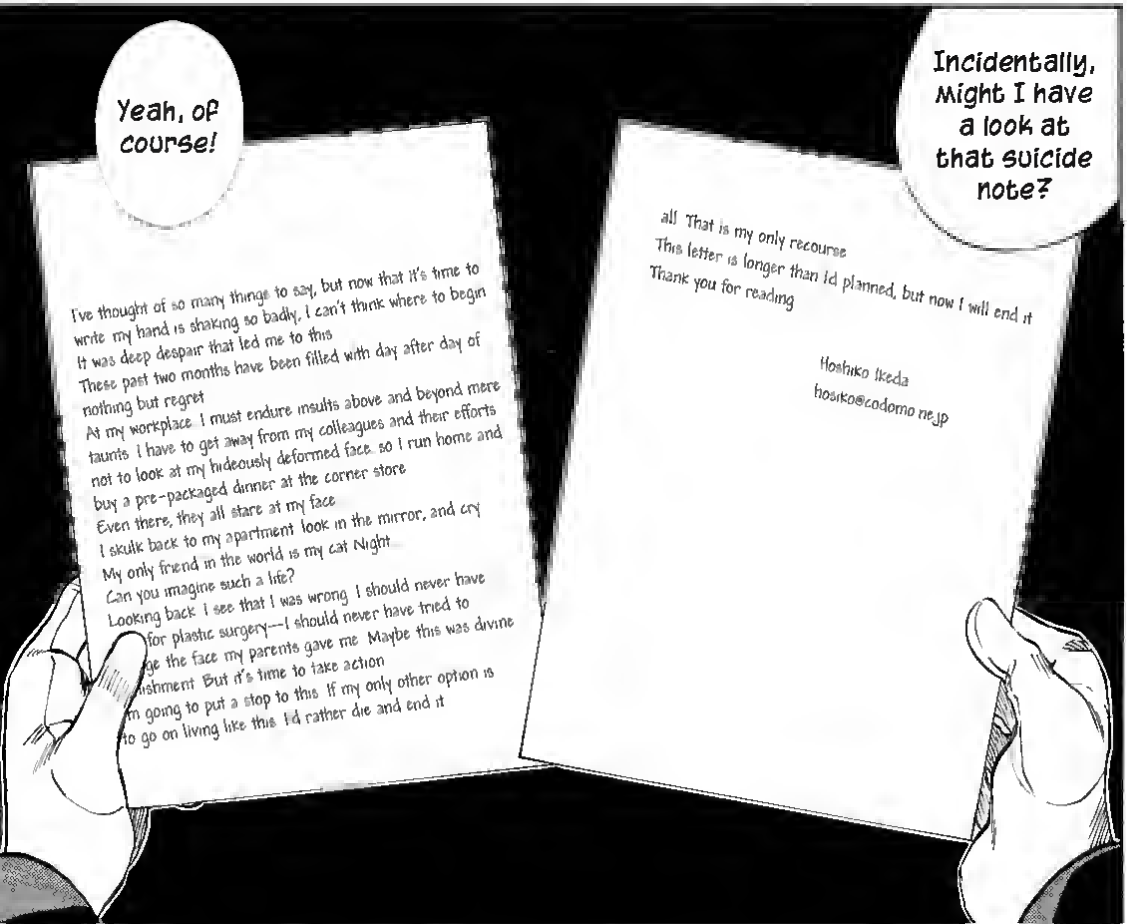
When someone climbs up to the roof to kill themself,
in most cases, they jump.
What makes you say that, Sherdog?
GRRR...
Only my 100-year-old detective instincts...
HOP
SS...
Oh! That's true.
If someone's gonna hang themself, I think they usually do it inside.
Or they'd go to a tree in a park or the mountains.
So we may assume that if one chooses the roof
ARF!
as a suicide location, he or she intends to jump.
And look. This building's rail isn't especially high.
I see... But hey, Sherdog...


Right... It could be a forgery.
No...if you could judge a death as a suicide based purely on the existence of a note, there would be no need for police or detectives.
They said they found a note.


You know it's real because it's hand-written? How?
I'll send it in for a handwriting analysis, but it is handwritten, so it's probably real.
This was a suicide. There's even a note.
Oh, sorry, Munakata-kun.
Hey, Takeru-kun.

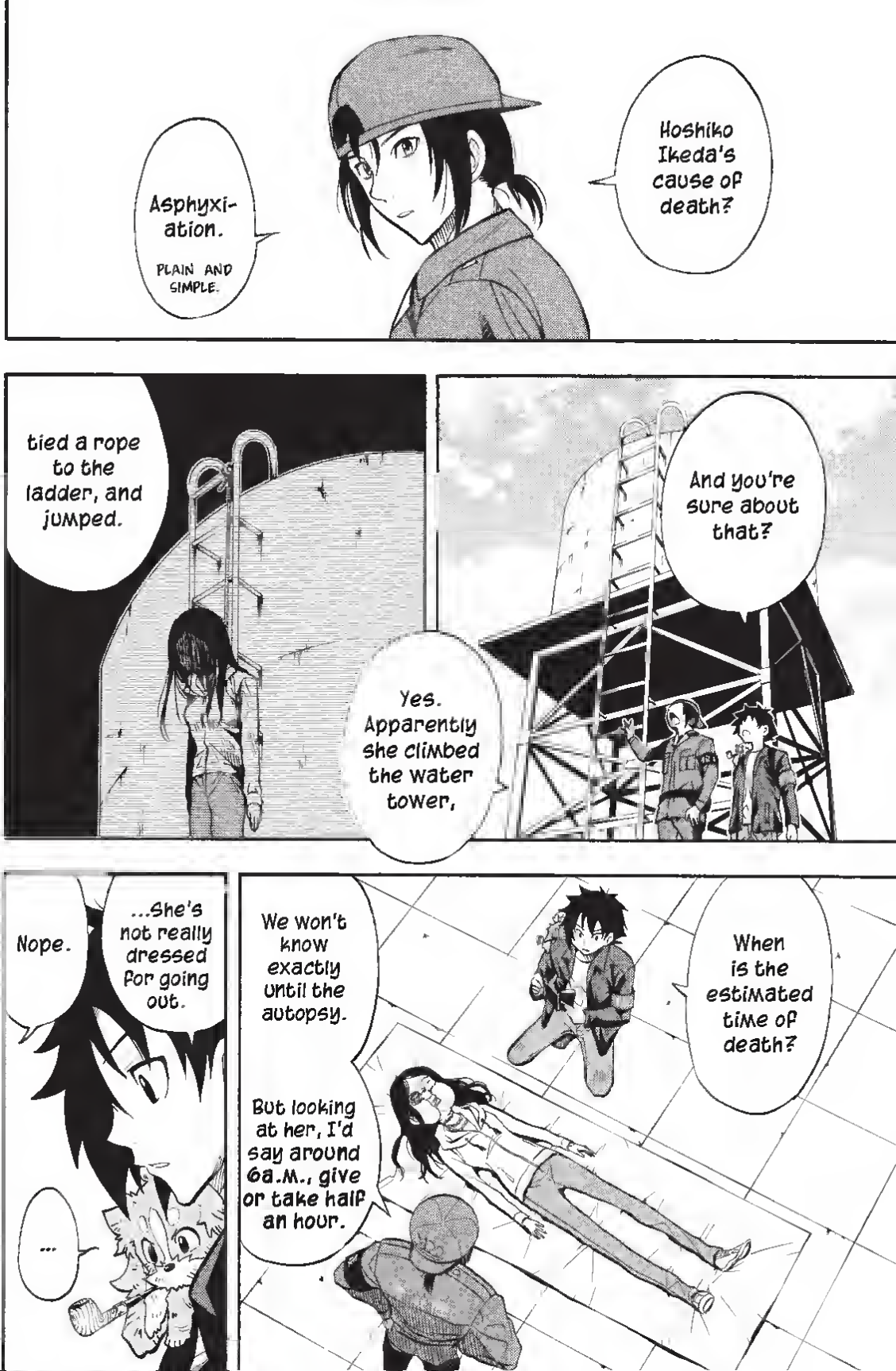
I NEED A CASE WHERE THE VICTIM IS EITHER REALLY HOT OR REALLY IMPORTANT.
ARGH, I'M SO NOT INTO THIS.
I think I'm really starting to understand how Munakata-kun works...
...
If a killer was stupid enough to try that, he'd get himself caught without our help.
Uh, hello? If you're going to forge a suicide note, you'd type it up.
It doesn't take much for an analysis to prove a handwritten note was forged.
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW THAT?

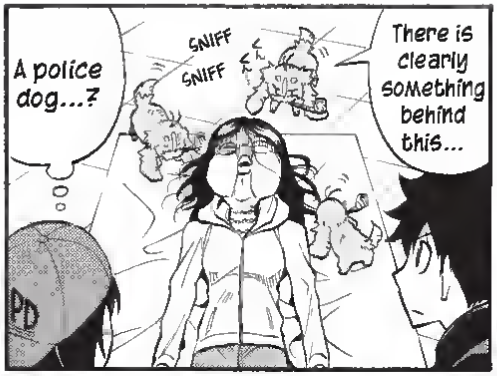
But I'm pretty happy about it.
What do you mean, Watson?
Well, you know. If Sherlock Holmes had two partners,
eventually, he wouldn't need Watson anymore.
...Quite so.
HEE HEE HEE...

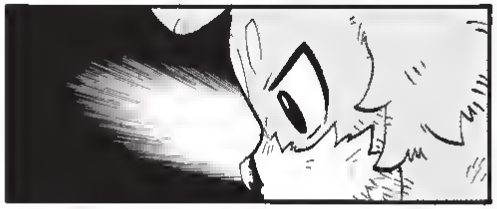

Incidentally, might I have a look at that suicide note?
Yeah, of course!
all That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than id planned, but now I will end it
Thank you for reading
Hoshiko Ikeda
hoshko@codomo ne.jp
I've thought of so many things to say, but now that it's time to
write my hand is shaking so badly, I can't think where to begin
It was deep despair that led me to this
These past two months have been filled with day after day of
nothing but regret
At my workplace I must endure insults above and beyond mere
taunts I have to get away from my colleagues and their efforts
not to look at my hideously deformed face so I run home and
buy a pre-packaged dinner at the corner store
Even there, they all stare at my face
I skulk back to my apartment look in the mirror, and cry
My only friend in the world is my cat Night
Can you imagine such a life?
Looking back I see that I was wrong I should never have
for plastic surgery--I should never have tried to
ge the face my parents gave me Maybe this was divine
ishment But it's time to take action
m going to put a stop to this If my only other option is
to go on living like this Id rather die and end it

She doesn't seem to have written where she got her surgery.
!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
It must be pretty hard on a woman...
It looks like... she'd lost all hope because of some failed plastic surgery.
HMMM... At a glance, it certainly seems legitimate...
...
From my analysis,
there are several unnatural points to this note.
What? So then...
Based on this note, my scales of deduction
lean heavily on the side of homicide!

Exactly!
...Got it.
We'll follow that line of reasoning for our investigation!
...
PFFT
ARF!
First, we have to inspect the body!
Right!


Hoshiko Ikeda's cause of death?
Asphyxi-ation.
PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
tied a rope to the ladder, and jumped.
Yes. Apparently she climbed the water tower,
And you're sure about that?
When is the estimated time of death?
We won't know exactly until the autopsy.
But looking at her, I'd say around 6a.m., give or take half an hour.
...She's not really dressed for going out.
Nope.
...

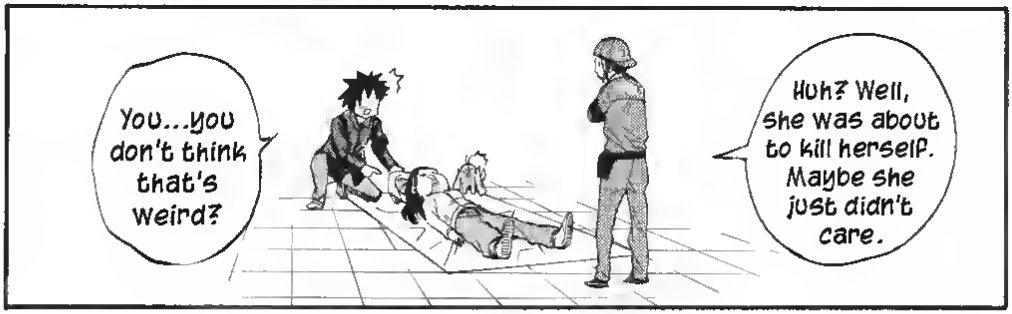

A police dog...?
SNIFF
SNIFF
There is clearly something behind this...
PD



But she came up to the roof to hang herself in just one layer of loungewear.
It's still cold this time of year.
TEP

Look, sir!!
It's still got its dry-cleaning tag on!!

!!
ARF!
GASP


You...you don't think that's weird?
Huh? Well, she was about to kill herself. Maybe she just didn't care.

Arf!
I mean, she's wearing all those clunky accessories.
They're all over her neck and wrists!!

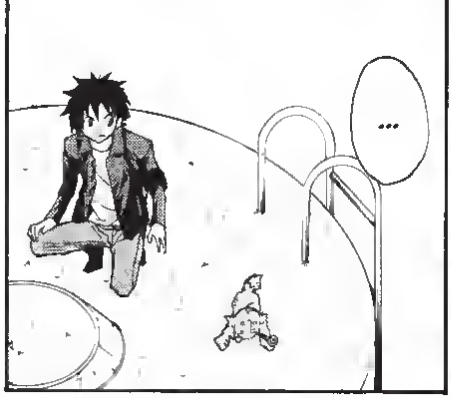
Even after making sure to change back into more comfortable clothes?

Maybe she was out late the night before and didn't take them off?
Good point...if she killed herself at six,

TAP
SLOOOW
Ah! Hey, runt! What are you...

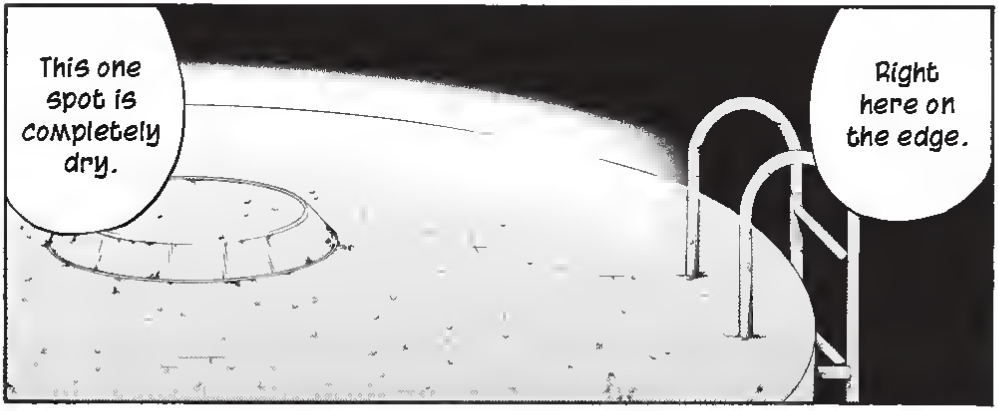
Hm?
Uh...yeah, I guess she would have taken off the clunky jewelry.

Excuse me!
Arf!!
She's wet...
Yeah, a little, on the front of her clothes. It looks like it rained some— that might have something to do with it.
Well, now that you mention it...
...
It was around four in the morning.
And it only sprinkled for about half an hour.
So it's strange that she would still get wet.
But look, when it was raining in this area...


...

No, that's fine.
Do you mind if I climb the water tower for a second?

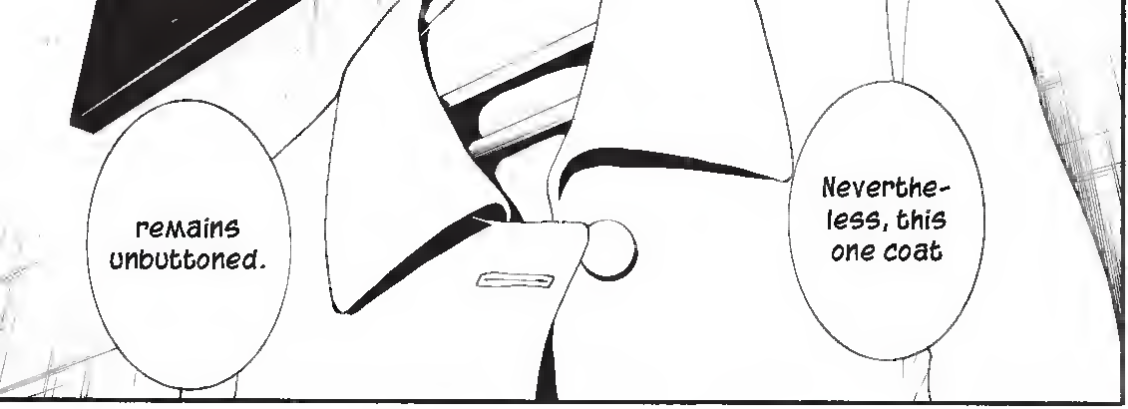
!
Look, Sherdog!


This one spot is completely dry.
Right here on the edge.

Next, let's check out the victim's apartment.
Yes, I'M starting to see what happened.
This crime is rife with the possibility of murder.

What, the second you're a detective, you think you get special privileges?
Demanding that we investigate the apartment of a suicide victim.
IKEDA
Argh...
DON
ROOM?!
S... sorry.
Don't blame me if you get cursed for snooping around a suicide victim's...
IT'S DEAD! OH, THE BAD LUCK!!
A BLACK CAT...!!
ZU-HI-HI-HI-HI
DON

...
Then I think she would have taken it with her to the roof...
GLANCE
キョロッ
I guess she wanted to take him with her when she died...
POOR THING.
Oh, this is Ikeda-san's pet cat.
GRRR...
She has five other articles of outerwear.
!
Watson, take a look at that coat.
Huh?
And every one of them has the top button fastened...

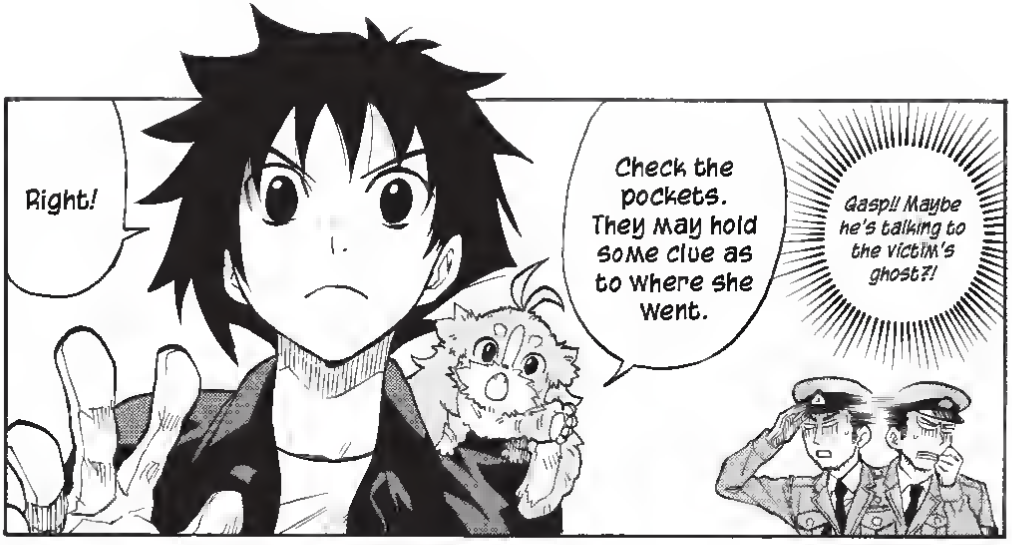

remains unbuttoned.
Nevertheless, this one coat

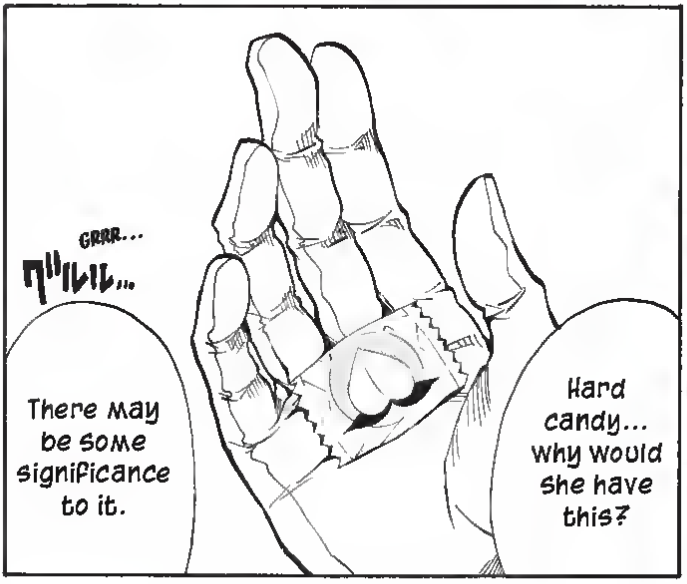
That someone killed her.
So you're saying that the departed Koshiko Ikeda went out to meet someone wearing this coat.

I'm gradually seeing the whole picture.
It's possible that someone other than the victim hung this coat...

What is he muttering to himself about?
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

ARF!
You're getting better at this, Watson.
And now she's dressed in her normal clothes
as part of a scheme to make it look like she had never gone out, and never met anyone.


Right!
Check the pockets. They may hold some clue as to where she went.
Gasp!! Maybe he's talking to the victim's ghost?!


GRRR...
There may be some significance to it.
Hard candy... Why would she have this?

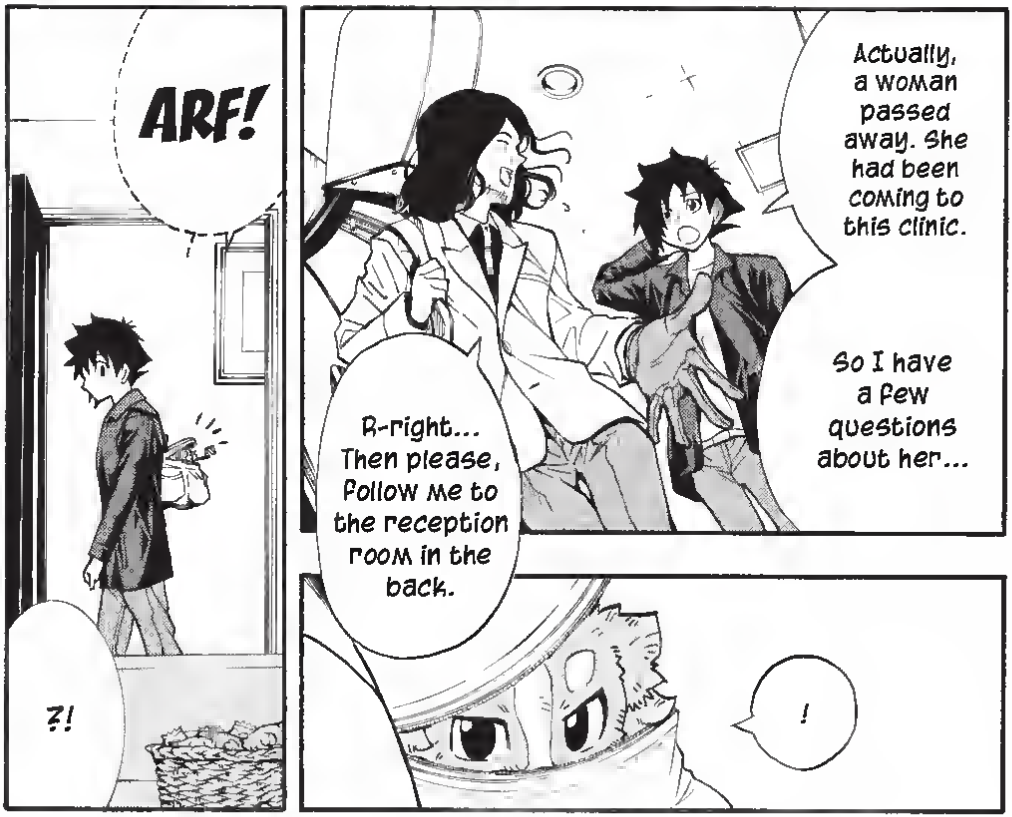
!
RUMMAGE

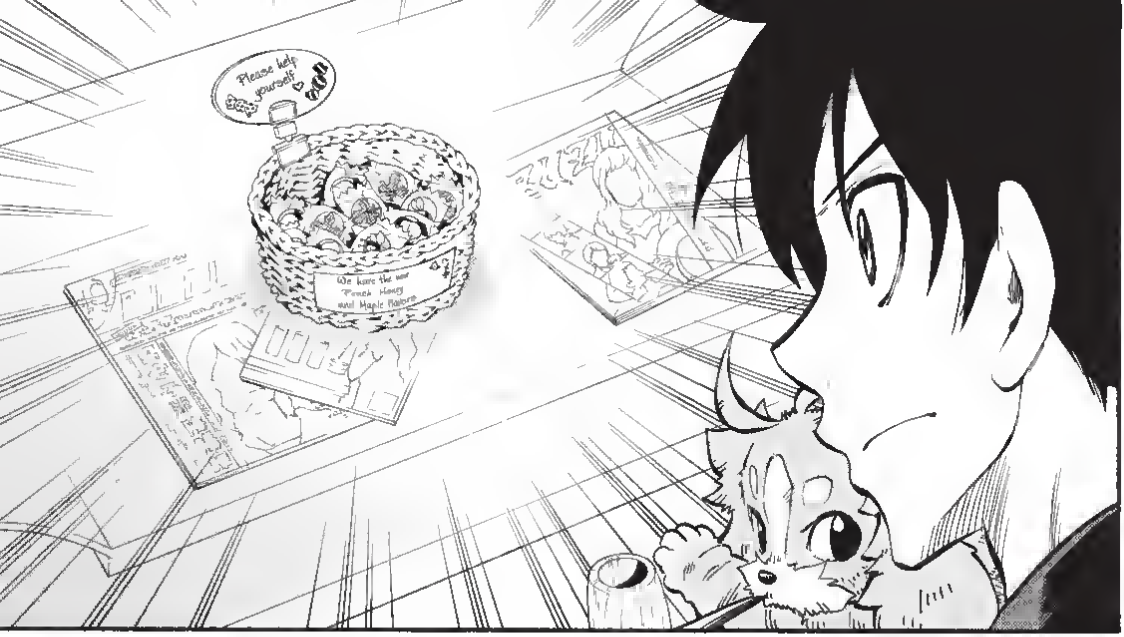
HM?
...I'M not finding a bag of candy.

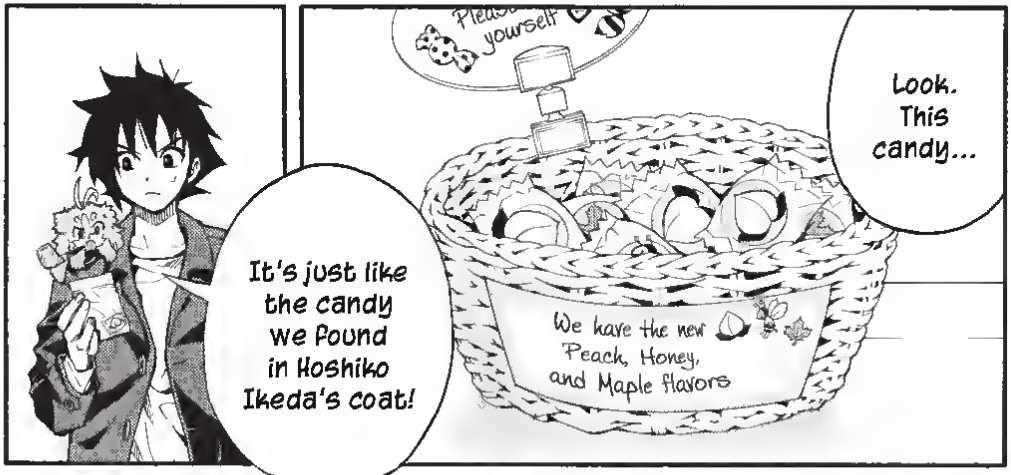
Check the handbag there.
OOOHHH, EVIL SPIRIT, BE GONE...
Okay.
ARF!
It's individually wrapped. If she had bought it herself, there should be a bag somewhere with more of them.

Hyper Beauty Clinic
Hyper Beauty Clinic...?
Hyper Beauty Clinic
Akane-sensei, there's someone here to see you.
What?
Traffic was worse than I planned for♪
Oh, good, I made it in time for my afternoon appoint-ments♡
TRAFFIC
Oh!
BACK FROM GOLFING
...
Are you interested in cosmetic surgery?
No.
You see, I'm...

No, no.
Not exactly.
Did something happen nearby...?
...
Oh...you're a police officer?


ARF!
?!
R-right... Then please, follow me to the reception room in the back.
Actually, a woman passed away. She had been coming to this clinic.
So I have a few questions about her...
!

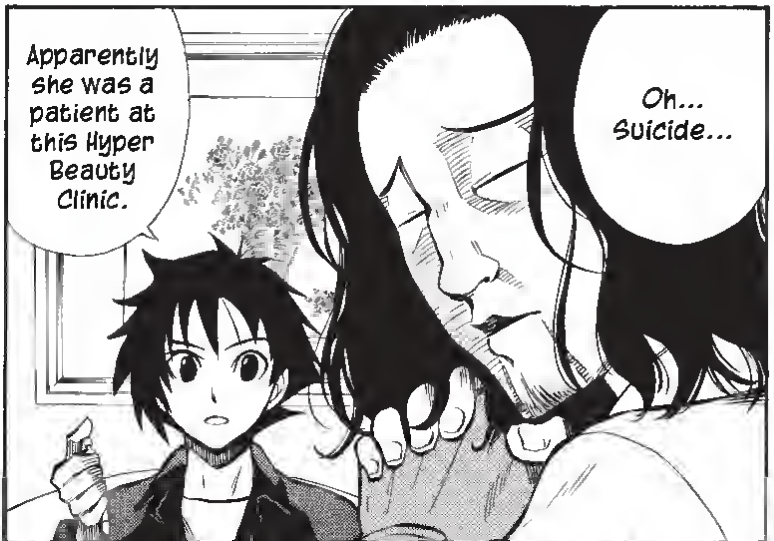

Please help yourself
We have the new Peach, Honey, and Maple flavors

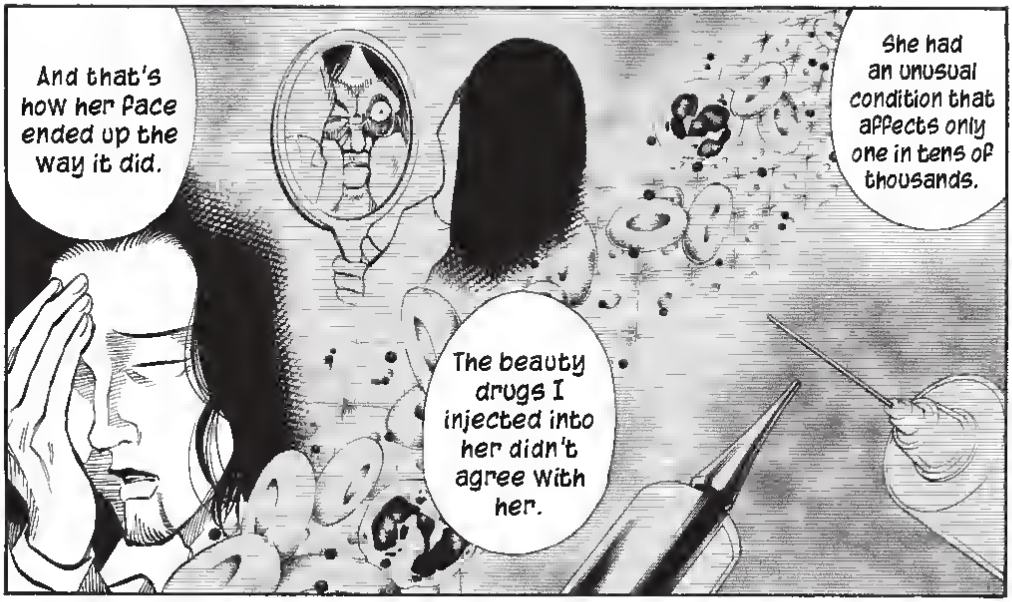

It's just like the candy we found in Hoshiko Ikeda's coat!
Look. This candy...
We have the new Peach, Honey, and Maple flavors

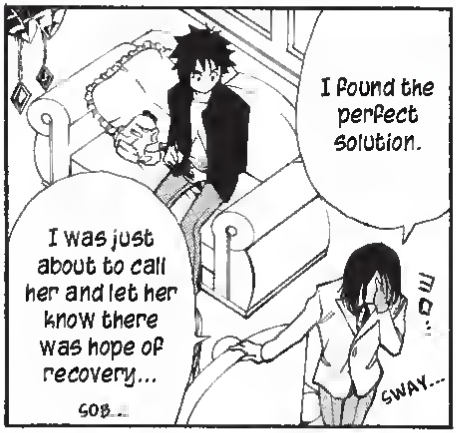
...
Yeah!

I believe the good doctor holds the key to this case.
After him, Watson!!

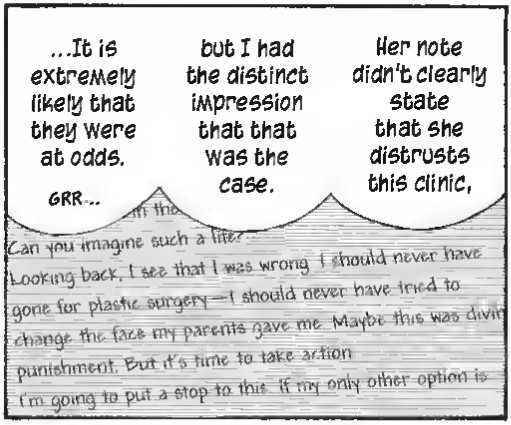
Case 9: ⚜ The Stolen Face, Part 3




And that's how her face ended up the way it did.
She had an unusual condition that affects only one in tens of thousands.
The beauty drugs I injected into her didn't agree with her.


I found the perfect solution.
I was just about to call her and let her know there was hope of recovery...
SOB...
SWAY...

But naturally, we still feel deeply responsible.
There was no negligence on my part...
I was just in the process of putting together a treatment plan to fix it.
CLATTER


...It is extremely likely that they were at odds.
but I had the distinct impression that that was the case.
Her note didn't clearly state that she distrusts this clinic,
GRR...
Can you imagine such a life?
Looking back, I see that I was wrong. I should never have gone for plastic surgery—I should never have tried to change the face my parents gave me. Maybe this was divine punishment. But it's time to take action.
I'm going to put a stop to this. If my only other option is

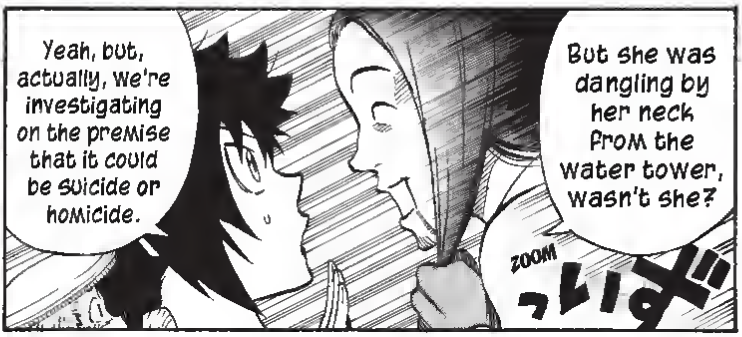
GRRR
I wonder about that.
I see...

Even so, I had no idea it had driven her to the point of suicide...
But she was so stubborn!
She wouldn't listen to a word I said—she just kept wallowing in her misery!!
I agonized over it—trying to get her to understand!!
...

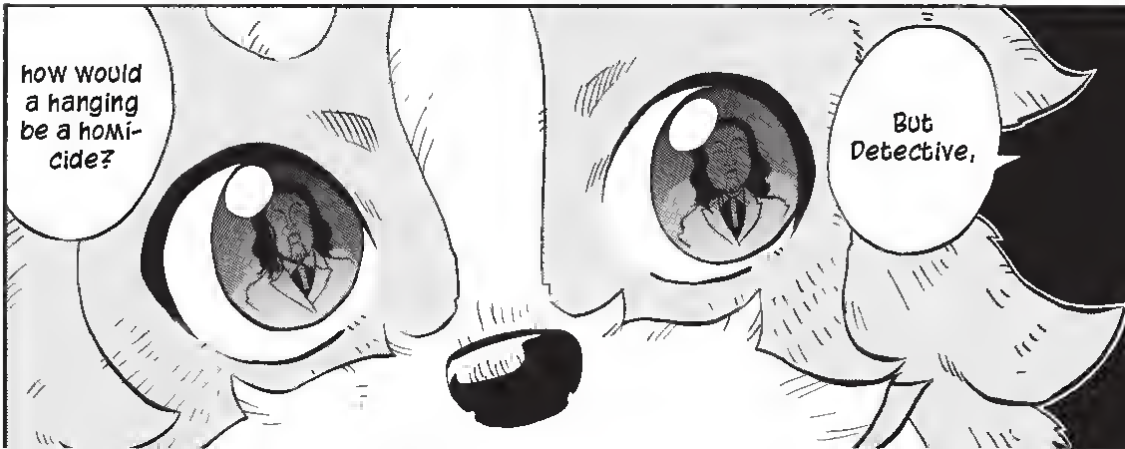
SQUEEZE キュッ
Ouch ♡
Let's see, for tears I squeeze here...
Oh, why couldn't I have realized?!
UM...

What?!
I never said it was suicide.

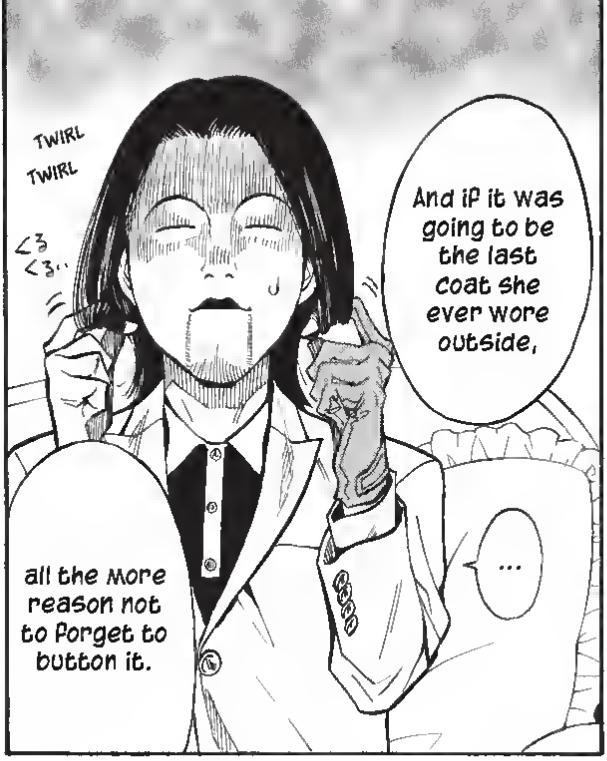
...


Yeah, but, actually, we're investigating on the premise that it could be suicide or homicide.
But she was dangling by her neck from the water tower, wasn't she?
ZOOM
ニヤリ

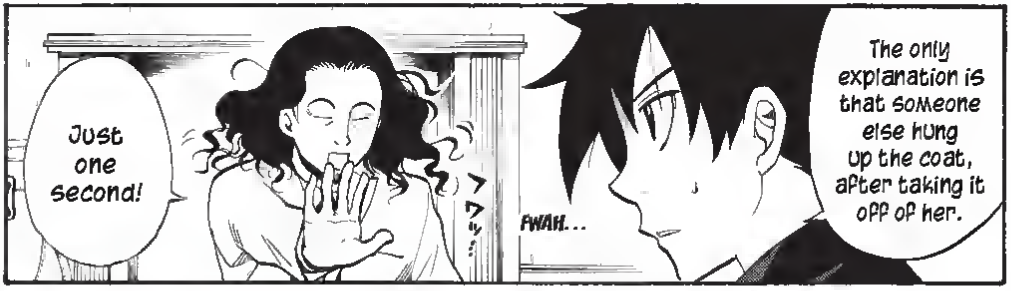
My best quality is that I show no emotion on my face.
Don't let him shake you, Yoshito-chan.
R... right...


How would a hanging be a homicide?
But Detective,

was hanging with the top button unfastened.
For example, only one of her coats
What's unusual about that?
Huh?
we found a few things that seemed unnatural.
Well, you see, when we searched Hoshiko Ikeda-san's room,
Unnatural?
Oh, dear, what do you mean?!
This boy is so nitpicky!!
Ha ha ha... Maybe she just happened to forget?
No.
All her other coats were hung that way.
When Hoshiko-san hung up her coats,
she appeared to be in the habit of always making sure to button the top button.
Minor details!!


TWIRL
TWIRL
<3
<3..
And if it was going to be the last coat she ever wore outside,
...
all the more reason not to forget to button it.

Something like that becomes a habit.
OR WHERE YOU LEAVE YOUR KEYS.
LIKE CLOSING THE TOILET LID.
You'd be surprised how hard it is for someone to forget to do it.
OR THE WAY YOU FOLD YOUR CLOTHES

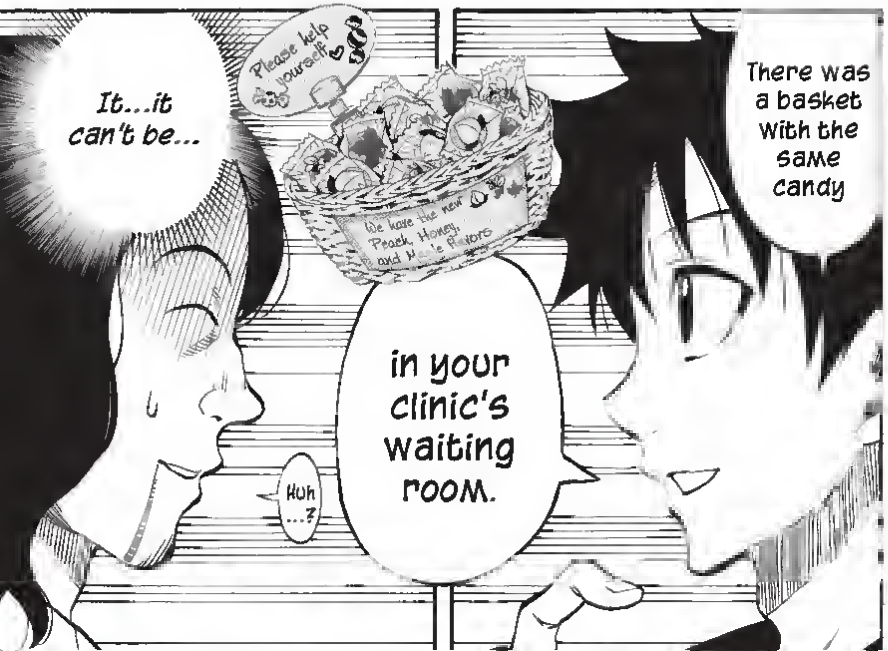

Just one second!
フワッ!
FWAH...
The only explanation is that someone else hung up the coat, after taking it off of her.

H-hard candy?
It was in the coat's pocket.
Yes.

This.
How do you know that was the last coat she ever wore?
RUMMAGE
ゴソ

NEW
NEW HARD CANDY
FRUIT CANDY
MILK
FRUIT
It just went on sale yesterday!
This hard candy is a new product.

So minor!!
If the candy went on sale yesterday morning, and she had one in her pocket,
then she would have had to wear that coat out yesterday, right?

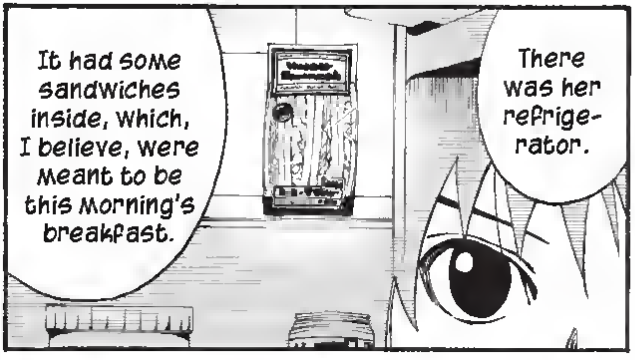

It...it can't be...
Please help yourself
There was a basket with the same candy
in your clinic's waiting room.
Huh...?

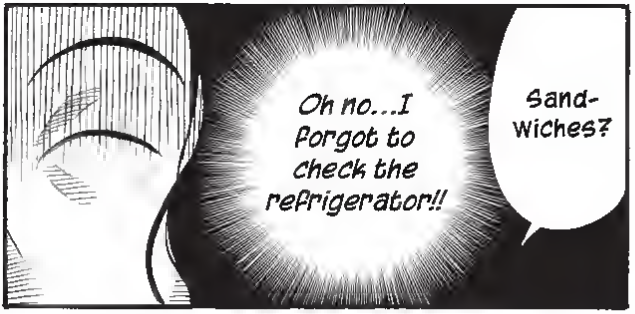
Nitpicky men will never impress women, you know?!
Oh... by the way.

That thieving cat!!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
That monster came into my clinic, and put my candy in her pocket?!
Please help yourself
IT SAYS "HELP YOURSELF"
We have the finest Peach, Honey and Maple Natives
What a coinci-dence...
What ...
PUSH

No.
I don't think that's much to go on...
Is the coat button the only unnatural thing you discovered?
...No, stop. I need to calm down.

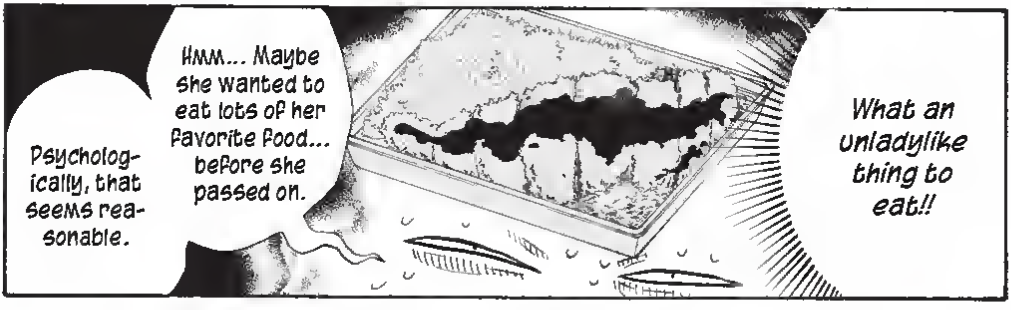
Yes, and when we asked around,
we found out that Hoshiko-san
bought them at the corner store around five yesterday evening, most likely on her way home from work.

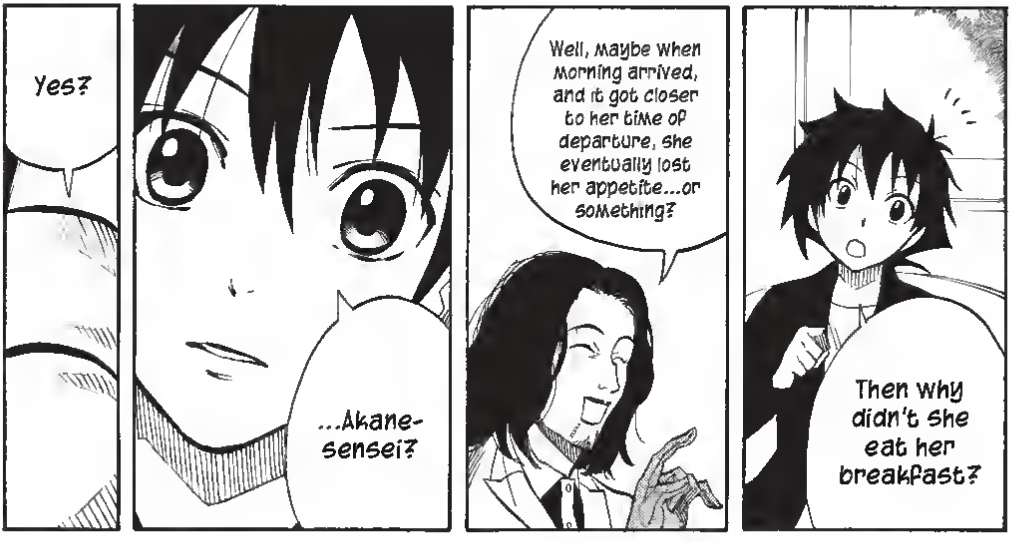

It had some sandwiches inside, which, I believe, were meant to be this morning's breakfast.
There was her refrige-rator.


Oh no...I forgot to check the refrigerator!!
Sand-wiches?

She planned to kill herself the next morning,
and bought the sandwiches on her way home for that evening's dinner...
Have you considered this possibility, Detective Wajima?
What possibility?
What? She was still going to work? With that face?!
I'm impressed!
...and went to bed without swallowing a bite.
But while she was thinking it over, she got very emotional...
...
As you just said, Akane-sensei...
R...really?!
There was an empty disposable bento box in the trash-can. That was probably her dinner.
No, that's unlikely.
You should have said so, you rotten cheater!!

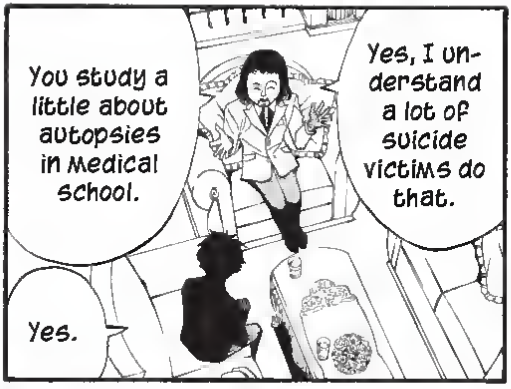
An...an extra-large pork cutlet bento?!
to keep in the fridge for the next day. ...They would be too emotional.
an extra-large pork cutlet bento dinner, and buy sandwiches
Someone contemplating suicide wouldn't polish off

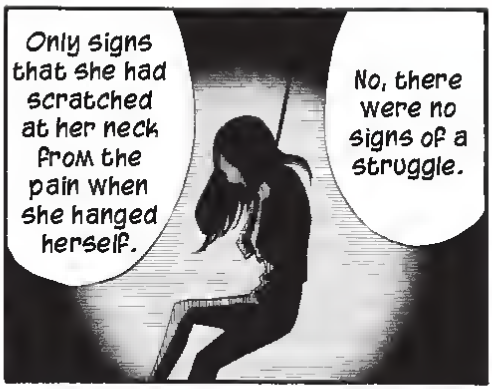

Psychologically, that seems reasonable.
Hmm... Maybe she wanted to eat lots of her favorite food... before she passed on.
What an unladylike thing to eat!!


Yes?
...Akane-sensei?
Well, maybe when morning arrived, and it got closer to her time of departure, she eventually lost her appetite...or something?
Then why didn't she eat her breakfast?

What? No, I'M doing nothing of the sort...
You're trying awfully hard to convince me that it was suicide.
But when someone strangles someone else, there are very obvious marks to give them away. Isn't that right?
It's just... faking a hanging? I love mysteries, so I understand where you're coming from.
I mean, there are a lot of reasons it would be difficult to pull off.
...
...
GASP
For example, the victim would struggle...

Did you find any? Blood from the killer, I mean.
And then there would be blood under their fingernails.
For example, the victim would scratch the hands that are around their neck.
Yes, you're exactly right.

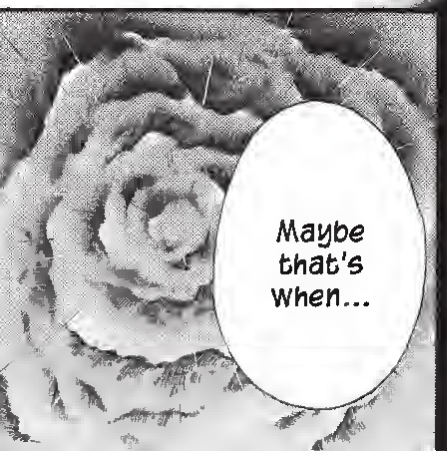

You study a little about autopsies in Medical school.
Yes.
Yes, I understand a lot of suicide victims do that.

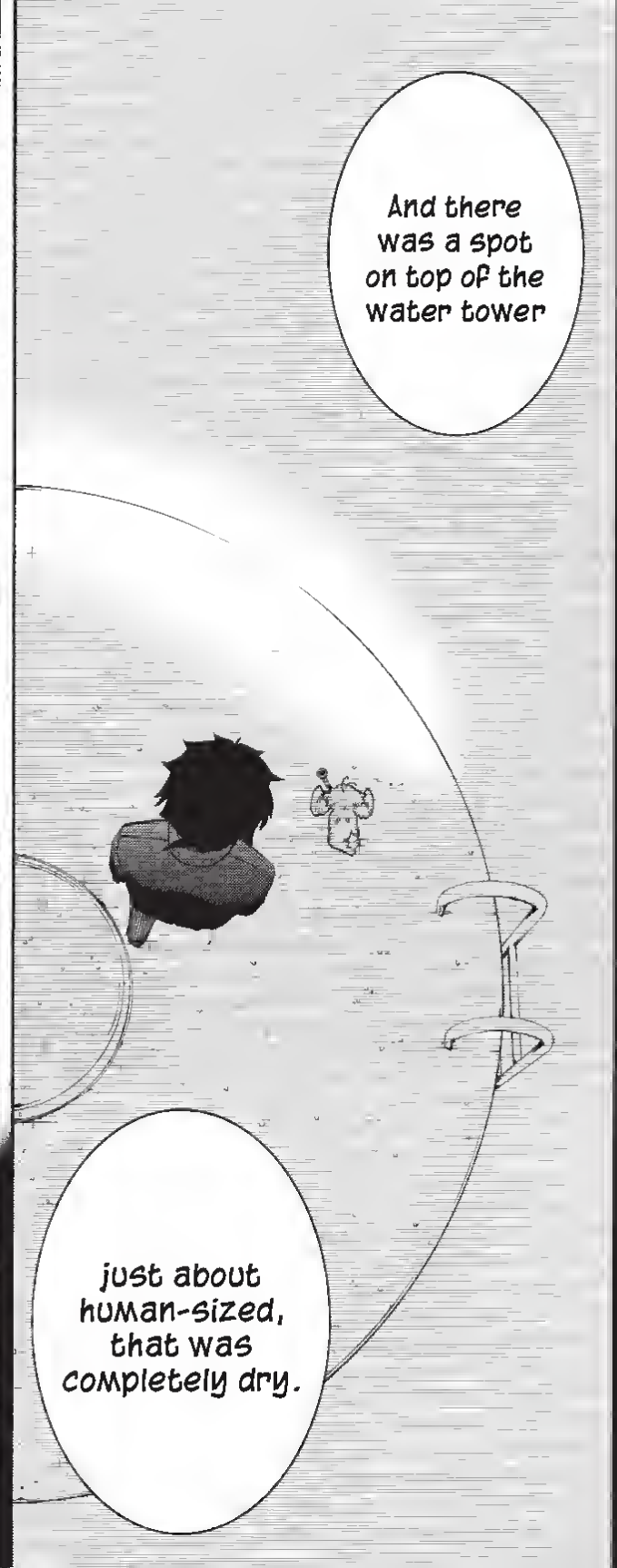

Only signs that she had scratched at her neck from the pain when she hanged herself.
No, there were no signs of a struggle.

is that the clothes she was wearing
were wet... but only in front.
But the strange thing

...
What do you suppose that means?

According to the Meteorological Agency
there was a sprinkling of rain
at about four in the morning.


Maybe that's when...


And there was a spot on top of the water tower
just about human-sized, that was completely dry.

dangerously close to the edge of the tower.
...she was lying face-up,
!!
B-DMP
We believe that she died
around 6 a.m.
...
...May I ask what time Ikeda-san killed herself?
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP
Don't let him shake you, Yoshito-chan...

Ooohhh, that is exactly when I was being interviewed for a golf magazine.
I was out on the course with the editor. We met at five.
ss...
So it **was** suicide...
...Oh.
Stop scaring me with all this talk of murder.
ss
...There was. A note written by Hoshiko Ikeda-san herself.
...
Oh, of course! When there's a suicide, there's bound to be one piece of evidence to prove it!
They do it in mysteries all the time. They try to find a suicide note!
Well? Was there a note?
Sherdog
...

Do you know anything?
I'm still investigating where she was...and what she was doing last night.
I mean, you came here to ask me about her motive for suicide, yes?
That, and about her activities.
SS...
Now, do you have any other questions?
I closed up the clinic early.
and went home to bed. I don't know anything.
...No, I had to wake up early
for the magazine interview I told you about.
...For today?
Yes, sir.
That will be all for today.
Whoops, I have an appointment with a patient. Are we finished yet?
...I see.

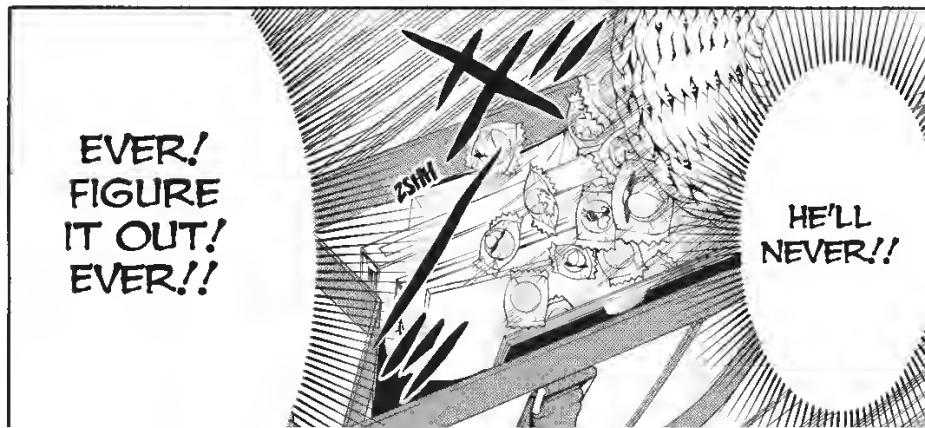
Akane-sensei.
BOW
Yes.
I'll be expecting your cooperation again in the future.
TWITCH
Come by any time.
...Certainly.
BAM
...
Excuse Me.
SHUT

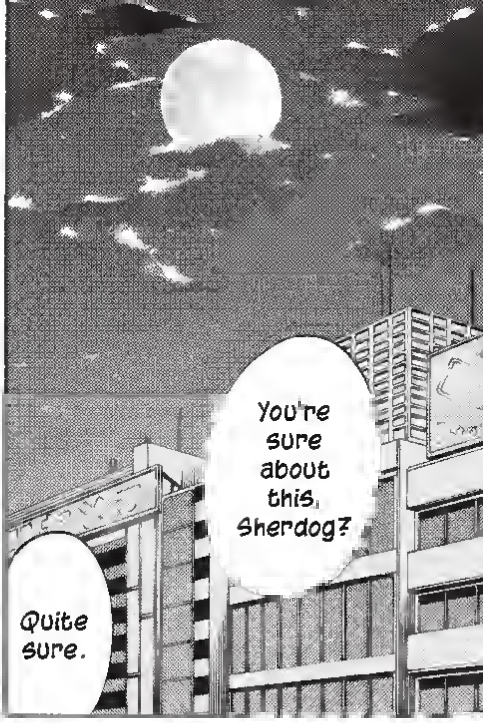
CRUNCH
CHOMP
CRUNCH
CHOMP
HE'S GONE! GONE! I WIN!!
MY ALIBI IS AIRTIGHT!!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
GAH

I just refilled it...
That's weird.
ZHRR
ZHRR

Yamada-san.
CREAK

Oh, sorry about that, Sensei.
Please refill the basket.
We're out of candy in the waiting room.


EVER! FIGURE IT OUT! EVER!!
ZSHH
HE'LL NEVER!!

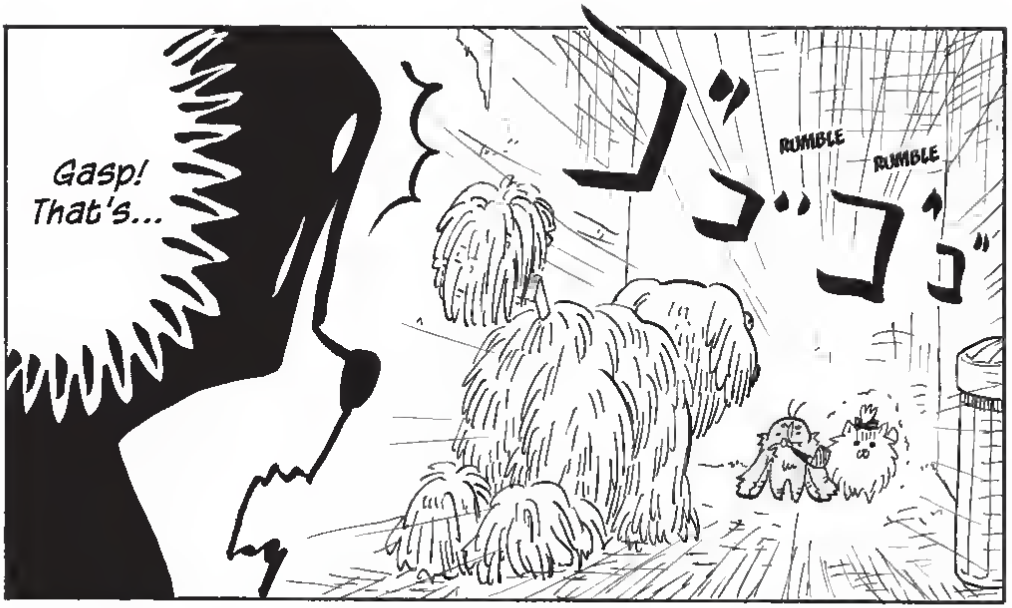


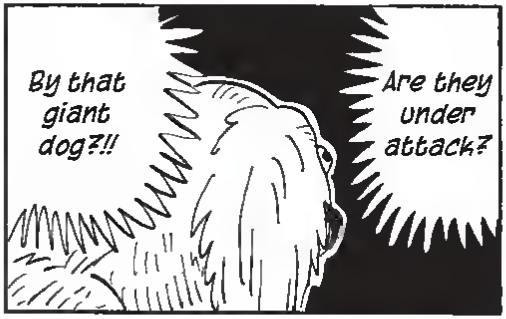
To be continued in Volume 7

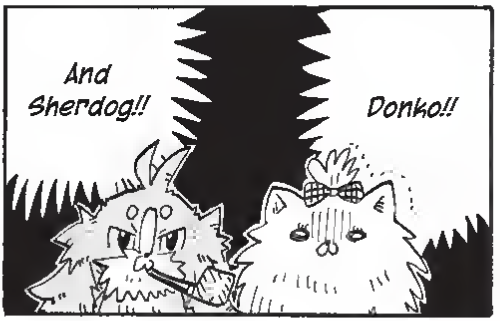
Bonus
We've been watched these past few days?
Do you get the feeling
Watson.
Yeah... Ever since that dog contest...
Yes, clearly...
TWITCH
Donko-chan's marriage proposal.
So, are you going to accept?
Accept what?

Enough with your bad jokes, Watson.
GASP
Sorry, sorry.
That's not funny, Watson.
GRRR...
Maybe you're quite a looker in the dog world.
And she's a pretty popular dog.
But she really likes you, Sherdog.
Huh?
SERIOUSLY?
I know what he's after!!
Aha...of course!
That's great, John-nii!
Would you—
WHIMPER
MASSAGE
MASSAGE
BOW-WOW!
JOHN
She's head over heels for that Sherdog pup.
Come on, John-nii. Just give it up already.
SUZUKI
Whoa, seriously?!
Oh! But I heard a rumor that he turned her down!
WOOF WOOF!

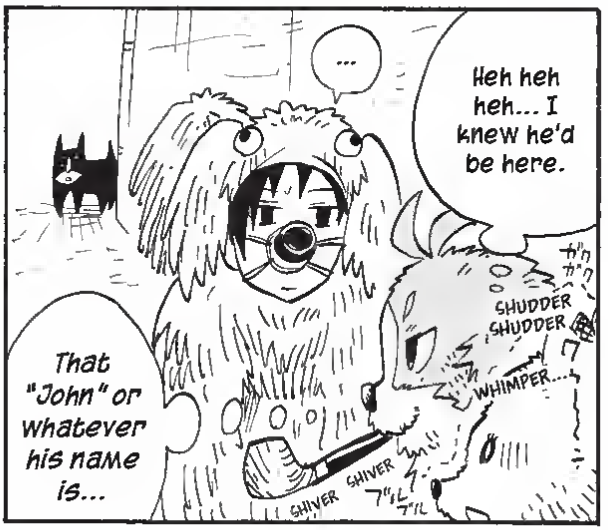
I don't wanna hear another word about Donko! Got it?!
Y-YES, SIR!
BOOM
Shut your trap!!
Yip!
He's gonna have to pay...
That pup's torn apart his alpha male pride...
Yeah... This isn't about love anymore...
Bro's losing it...
!!
Okay! I'M gonna settle this. Today.
What in the world is wrong with me?
Here I am, goin' after him again...
Dam-mit...!


Gasp! That's...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

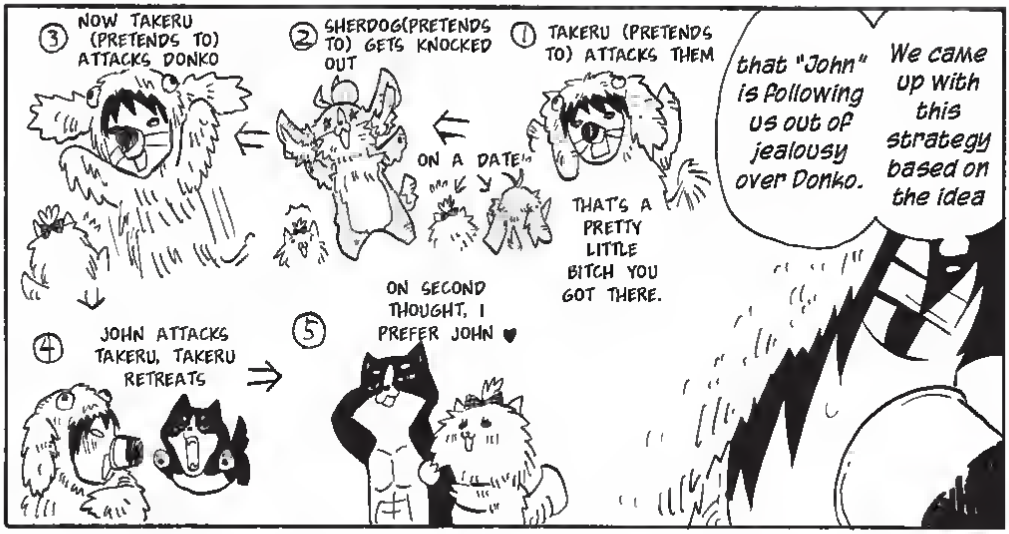

By that giant dog?!!
Are they under attack?


And Sherdog!!
Donko!!

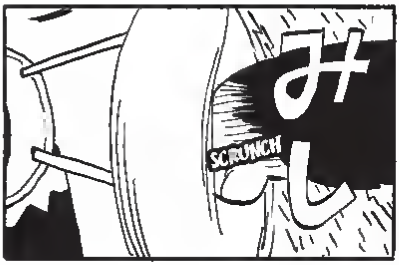
Are you ready, Watson?!!
Y...yeah.

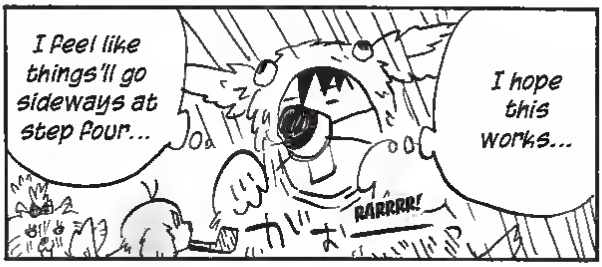

...
Heh heh heh... I knew he'd be here.
SHUDDER SHUDDER
WHIMPER...
That "John" or whatever his name is...
SHIVER
SHIVER

ANDO-SENSEI, EDITOR G-SAN, DESIGNER-SAN, PUBLISHING COMPANY-SAN, EVERYONE IN SALES, MY STAFF, MY MENTOR, MY FRIENDS

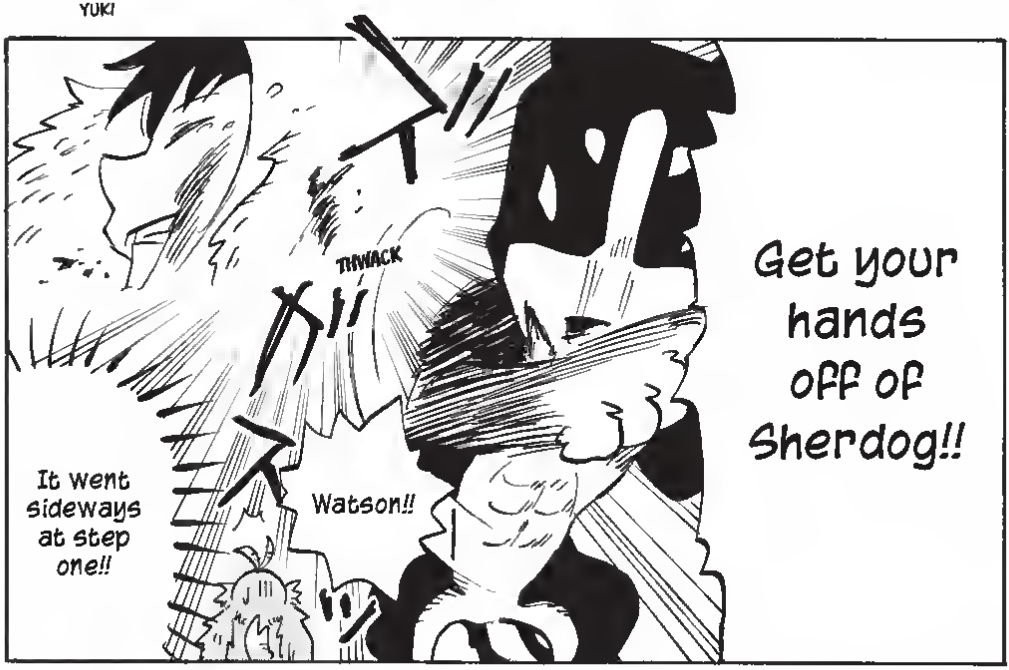

3 NOW TAKERU (PRETENDS TO) ATTACKS DONKO
2 SHERDOG(PRETENDS TO) GETS KNOCKED OUT
1 TAKERU (PRETENDS TO) ATTACKS THEM
ON A DATE!
THAT'S A PRETTY LITTLE BITCH YOU GOT THERE.
that "John" is following us out of jealousy over Donko.
We came up with this strategy based on the idea
4 JOHN ATTACKS TAKERU, TAKERU RETREATS
5 ON SECOND THOUGHT, I PREFER JOHN ♥

MY FAMILY, AND ALL MY READERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH! I'LL KEEP WORKING HARD. (^^)





YUKI



OOPS! IT'S A CLIFFHANGER!!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Munakata-kun and Takeru-kun, page 13

A discerning reader will notice that Detective Munakata, while graciously insisting that he and Takeru are on good enough terms to use the more familiar name honorific of -kun, he still tells Takeru to call him by his family name—a more respectful form of address—while at the same time being presumptuous enough to call Takeru by his given name. In other words, he is asserting that he is above Takeru in his own personal hierarchy.

Yuuhi beer, page 20

The Sherlock Bones universe's version of the real-world Asahi beer. "Asahi" means "morning sun," while "Yuuhi" means "setting sun."

Rohto and Sante de U, page 26

Rohto is a Japanese pharmaceutical company known for its eye drops. Sante de U is a specific brand of eye drops, manufactured by Santen Pharmaceutical Co.

Gindaichi, page 46

There is a famous fictional Japanese detective named Kindaichi, of which this is a parody. Incidentally, Yuma Ando, the writer of Sherlock Bones, wrote another series under a different pen name about Kindaichi's grandson.

Gakitsuka No Laughing Special, page 65

I never got to see it before, because the pig would hog the television all year round!
SHE PREFERS THE SONG BATTLE!
Man, I'm so glad I didn't give up and delete them all ♡
I'm so glad I recorded this!
The New Year's Gakitsuka No-Laughing special!

Gakitsuka is short for Downtown no Gaki no Tsukai ya Arahende! (Downtown, This is No Task for Kids!), a popular Japanese variety show. On New Year's they have a "no-laughing" special, in which cast members are put in ridiculous situations and challenged not to laugh. Tsuzuki would not have been able to watch these throughout the years, because his wife preferred another big New Year's television event—the Kōhaku Utagassen

(Red and White Song Battle), in which teams of popular musical artists take part in a singing competition.

Capsule Monster, page 86

This is a reference to the Japanese action series, Ultra Seven. The hero has capsules containing monsters, much like Pokémon, that he will send to fight in his place when he is unable to fight himself.

Tō-Ops News, Yomikai Shimbun, and Shūkan Kentai, page 127

These are all parodies of existing Japanese newspapers. Namely, Tokyo Sports (To-Spo for short), Yomiuri Shimbun, and Shūkan Gendai, respectively.

Shichi-Go-San, page 134

Meaning "seven-five-three," Shichi-Go-San is a Japanese festival that celebrates children, specifically three- and seven-year-old girls, and three- and five-year-old boys. Parents dress their children in more formal attire and they visit shrines. In other words, Chief Yoshida is saying that in their suits and ties, Takeru and Kento look like very small children celebrating Shichi-Go-San.

I want you to dress more youth-fully when you go on investiga-tions.
LIKE SHICHI GO-SAN
BOYS?!
You boys aren't really ready for those clothes yet, are you?

Taiyō ni Hoero!, page 134

"Taiyō ni Hoero!", or "Howl at the Sun!", is the title of a Japanese crime drama from the 70's and 80's. Detective Denim, or Jii-pan Keiji, is a nickname for one of the main characters, Jun Shibata.

Sherlock Bones volume 6 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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